

South Yemeni leaders gather in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) of South Yemen are flocking to Damascus for talks on the party's future after the collapse of their bid to break away from northern Yemen. Yemeni officials said on Monday. Fadi Mohsen Abdullah, Yemeni minister in the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who refused to join rebel ranks arrived in the Syrian capital on Monday to attend the talks, the officials told Reuters. Muhammad Abdul Shottah, former Yemeni ambassador to Syria who was removed by the Sanaa government after the southern rebellion, said former Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas was also due to arrive in Damascus soon. But he said that YSP leader Ali Salem Al Beldi, who led the southern rebels during the two-month civil war that ended on July 7, will not attend. Mr. Beldi fled to Oman after the defeat of his forces. Mr. Shottah did not set a date for Damascus talks. Last week the two sides attended U.N.-sponsored talks in Geneva for reconciliation. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said on Monday he would ask countries sheltering southern rebels to hand them back for trial.

Ex-minister and deputy passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday announced the death of Daoud Al Hussein, a former minister of economy. Hussein, who passed away in Amman on Monday, occupied several government posts and was elected twice as deputy of Jerusalem since 1956. He will be laid to rest in his hometown of Jerusalem.

Israel, Jordan and PLO to hold more bilateral talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, Jordan and Palestinians will sit down for their second bilateral talks in two weeks when environmental experts convene in the Egyptian resort of Tabu on Wednesday, Israeli officials said on Monday. Foreign ministry spokesman Gil Reich said each of the three sides would send a professional delegation to Tabu to discuss regional environmental issues such as air and water pollution and insect extermination. "It's a meeting of experts and they are going to talk about problems related to the three sides," Mr. Reich said. Israeli, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordanian negotiators held their first ever trilateral meeting last week in Oslo, Norway to discuss a study on regional water management.

Six surplus F-16s land in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The first six of 50 surplus American F-16 fighter planes promised as part of U.S. commitments to the peace process landed in Israel Monday. The United States promised Israel the planes as part of America's commitment to Israel's maintaining its regional edge. "The will help maintain Israel's qualitative edge over other countries in the Middle East," air force commander Herz Bodinger said at the ceremony welcoming the planes. American pilots flew the planes into Israel from Germany. The planes are separate from Israel's decision earlier this year to purchase 20 specially designed F-15 war planes from McDonnell-Douglas.

Aid agencies regret Sudan talks failure

NAIROBI (AP) — Aid agencies expressed disappointment Monday with the latest adjournment without agreement of talks to end southern Sudan's civil war, which threatens millions with starvation. "We are fed up considering all we are doing and there is nothing happening on the political scene," said Gabriel Salazar of the French humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders.

White House keeps up pressure on Haiti

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House kept up the pressure on Haiti's military rulers Monday, saying they used to give up power voluntarily or face involuntary ouster. Spokesman Dee Dee Myers told reporters the military leaders of Haiti "need to decide what they're going to do soon." The United Nations Security Council voted Sunday to authorise a U.S. invasion and occupation of Haiti if sanctions fail to remove its military government (see inside). Ms. Myers gave no indication action was imminent but pointed to remarks by U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright that Haiti's leaders "can either leave voluntarily soon or involuntarily soon."

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idder puts car near, plows 5 children

ANGELES (R) — A year-old, left moment in a car with its engine on. Saturday night, the car was plowed into by a car, killing five children and injuring several others, officials said. The car was crushed under the car and was crushed to and were crushed to

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King, Rabin to meet in Aqaba Summit to launch Aqaba-Eilat road link

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is expected to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Aqaba in the coming two weeks to launch the building of a road that would link Aqaba with the Israeli port city of Eilat on the Red Sea, informed sources said Monday.

The sources said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will start a visit to the region on Aug. 8, would attend the meeting, which would be the second public Jordanian-Israeli summit since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein and Mr. Rabin held their first public

meeting in Washington on July 25 when they signed the Washington Declaration that was seen as a major step towards signing a peace treaty between the two countries. During the meeting, King Hussein declared an end to the state of war between the Kingdom and Israel. The King also said that high-level meetings between the countries would be held whenever necessitated.

The design and the location of the road which will be open to third country nationals have already been approved by a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee, sources told the Jordan Times. They said the road will be close to the area, 13 kilometres north of Aqaba, where the first public

Jordanian-Israeli bilateral meeting in the region took place on July 18. Jordan and Israel agreed to build the road and another crossing point in the north during the meetings of the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Committee near the Dead Sea on July 20. The meeting was opened by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in his capacity as foreign minister, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Christopher.

Sources said committees agreed on during the Dead Sea meeting have already been set up to discuss cooperation in the areas of telecommunication and civil aviation, among other issues. "The talks over opening the air space between Jordan

and Israel carry special significance" because Israel cannot open an international line through Jordanian air space unless Saudi Arabia agrees to have Israeli airlines fly over its territories as well, one informed source said.

Sources said "it seems" that the United States has already started talks over the issue with Saudi Arabia, which is a party to the multilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Jordan and Israel will also resume their bilateral talks over water rights, demarcation of borders and security on Aug. 8 on the border area between the two countries, the sources said, adding that the talks would last for 14 days.

Agencies add: One source told Reuters the Aqaba summit meeting would take place after Aug. 9.

"Their meeting will allow them a chance to evaluate developments on their track after their first public meeting in Washington last week," one official told Reuters.

Jordan and Israel agreed to open the Aqaba-Eilat border post as part of confidence building measures announced by the King and Mr. Rabin after they signed the Washington Declaration.

Both leaders also agreed to open another border crossing in the north, but two countries have to define the proposed site.

Jordanian and Israeli experts will meet Tuesday to discuss opening the new road link in the southwestern desert region of Wadi Araba, a



senior official said.

The official said the Jordanian team will include six experts from different government departments. The size and composition of the Israeli team was not known.

The official said Tuesday's meeting will take place at the same site where Israeli and Jordanian negotiators, opened their first talks in the region last month.

King meets Hurd

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met in London on Monday with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and exchanged views with him on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Mr. Hurd voiced the support of his government for the recent developments in the Middle East peace process, underlining Jordan's key role in the process and the significance of the Washington Declaration.

Mr. Hurd conveyed to the King the greetings of British Prime Minister John Major, who is currently on a foreign trip. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the Jordanian ambassador in London in addition to the head of the Middle East department at the British Foreign Office.

Regent urges Islamists to refrain from using mosques to propagate politics

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has called on the Islamic movement in the Kingdom to refrain from mixing politics with religion and from using mosque pulpits to propagate political theories.

The Regent's call came during a meeting with members of the Islamic movement in Parliament as well as some independent deputies and Cabinet members following

an incident where two members of Parliament were questioned by the public prosecutor after they delivered politically-charged sermons at mosques (see story below).

The meeting was broadcast on Jordan Television Monday evening. Countering the Islamic movement's argument that such sermons were a form of freedom of expression, the Regent underlined the need to understand the concepts or

the freedom of expression and self-restraint and asked whether abusing such freedom in public addresses could be considered part of self-restraint.

He also asked whether discussing national debts, mismanagement and corruption at a public forum such as mosques was the prerogative of one political party over another.

The Regent also referred to the widely-heard themes of

war and peace in mosque sermons as well as gatherings organised by the Islamic movement. He said Jordan, by opting for a negotiated peace with Israel, had chosen the lesser of the two evils.

The Regent also wondered whether it was a responsible act aimed at safeguarding national unity on the part of political parties to bet on government failure to deal with such issues and exploit the issues of poverty, unemployment and national debts to gather political support.

The Regent reiterated Jordan's stand on Jerusalem. He said the Kingdom had never called for the internationalisation of Jerusalem but had always insisted on a comprehensive solution which secures the Palestinian and Arab rights in the Holy City.

The Crown Prince also noted that the Israeli-Jordanian agenda for peace negotiations is the only agenda in the Middle East peace process that includes the issue of Palestinian refugees as a topic to be discussed and resolved.

The Crown Prince emphasised the need for continuous dialogue among various parties in order to protect national interest and work for



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, meets with some Islamist and independent deputies and Cabinet members (Petra photo)

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Brotherhood insists on addressing politics but rejects party-like treatment

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood, officially registered as a charity and social organisation, is insisting that it has the right to address political issues in the Kingdom but rejects that the government treats it as a political party.

Newly-elected leader of the movement Abdul Majid Thneibat says the Brotherhood's right to be involved in the political affairs of the Kingdom is one granted by Islam, which does not separate between religion and the state, and legitimised by the 48 years of active political history of the movement in the Kingdom.

"The Muslim Brotherhood derives its legitimacy from Islam, which does not separate religion from politics and it has not stopped practising political activities since 1946," when it was formed, Mr. Thneibat told a press conference Monday.

The press conference was the first in which the Brotherhood addressed a major political issue in the Kingdom since the formation of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) as its political arm in 1992 when the Political Parties Law went into effect.

The law restricts political activity to political parties which are forced to declare

their sources of income and banned from having links with outside parties. The Muslim Brotherhood movement is a world-wide movement that follows the teaching of the 1930s Egyptian scholar, Hassan Al Banna, the founder of the movement.

"We refuse to be treated as a political party," Mr. Thneibat said, adding that the Brotherhood's mission is a comprehensive social one that does not separate politics from religion.

"Islam is a religion and a state, a Koran and a sword," said Mr. Thneibat, who was elected to the top position in the Brotherhood last month.

At the press conference, Mr. Thneibat reiterated the Brotherhood's ideological rejection of the peace process and all agreements that might result from it. He added that opposition to the peace talks also stems from concern for the interests of the Kingdom.

But he said opposition to the talks, specially on the Jordanian track, would be expressed through constitutional and "Sharia-approved" channels.

Accusing the government of "marginalising" the opposition and the Lower House of Parliament and suppressing opposing points of view, Mr. Thneibat warned that one "of the options" available to the IAF to pro-



Abdul Majid Thneibat

test this policy is the resignation of its 16 representatives in Parliament.

Mr. Thneibat said that "some" IAF deputies — Abdul Aziz Jaber and Muhammad Al Haj — were referred to the prosecutor general last month after being accused of harming national unity during Friday sermons before the historic meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on July 25.

But he said the issues were shelved after contacts were made with the concerned authorities. "Mosque preachers are being denied their right to express their views from the

forum of the Prophet of God. We demand that they be allowed to say their word," he said warning that "we would raise the voice of opposition if this does not stop."

Informed sources confirmed that some IAF deputies were referred to the prosecutor general and the issue was resolved during a meeting between opposition parties and Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi before the Washington Summit.

They said one of the deputies issued a religious ruling during his sermon that legitimised "shedding the country's blood" while the other's sermon criticised the Armed Forces.

The sources said that Mr. Hindawi told the opposition during the meeting that the government tolerates legal opposition to the peace talks but will not allow opposition that could lead to disturbances in the Kingdom. They said the sit-in staged by the opposition on July 25 to protest the Jordanian-Israeli summit was approved during the meeting.

Mr. Thneibat told the press conference the Islamic movement will lead an effective opposition to the peace talks, saying that "If the official wall (against normalisation

(Continued on page 7)



HER MAJESTY Queen Noor chats with two Flying Scholarship for Disabled People by His year-old James Cahill as his mother Marion Majesty King Hussein on Sunday during the and sisters Stacy and Claire look on. Marion, final day of the International Air Tattoo at who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, was Fairford, Britain (AFP photo) presented with an International Air Tattoo

Rabin sees signs of Syria wanting peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that Syria showed "signs" of wanting to push ahead in its peace talks with Israel.

"During the negotiations with Syria, which are taking place mainly with the United States acting as intermediary, some signs to advance peace have appeared," Mr. Rabin told Israeli radio without elaborating.

But "deep differences" remained, the prime minister said a day after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss how to revive the talks with Damascus which have been stalled since February.

Israel and Syria diverged on the scale "the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan

Heights, the timescale of the pull-out, the stages in normalisation of ties and "security arrangements" between the two countries, Mr. Rabin said.

Syria demands an Israeli commitment to total withdrawal from the Heights before negotiating a peace treaty.

Israel wants a prior Syrian commitment to full peace with diplomatic relations, open borders and trade.

Mr. Rabin said there would have to be "a long, interim period" as Israel and Syria normalised relations, before the Jewish state would withdraw from the Golan according to pre-arranged limits.

He said he could not promise a settlement with Syria

before the end of 1994, and regretted the fact that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad still refused to meet him directly.

Mr. Rabin added that Israel was ready "to make territorial concessions to reach peace," and said a referendum would be held in the event of a "significant withdrawal from the Golan."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on July 14 that Israel recognises Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Mr. Rabin met Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabu to discuss the Israel-Syrian impasse ahead of a new Middle

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Arafat wants immediate Jerusalem negotiations

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Monday that he insisted on negotiating with Israel immediately on Jerusalem's future after it acknowledged Jordan's special role in the Islamic holy shrines in the Holy City.

"For us Jerusalem is one issue, one cause. It is not only a political issue, it is a sovereignty issue. It is an issue of holy, sacred places for Christians and Muslims," Mr. Arafat told a news conference.

Mr. Arafat said that Israel had forced the issue to the forefront. Palestinians were upset after last week's Washington summit between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin because the final declaration reaffirmed Jordan's historic role in the city's Muslim holy sites.

"Ok, if they have decided to start now then we are insisting to start now," Mr. Arafat said.

Jordan has repeatedly said that the Washington Declaration did not create any new facts and that the Kingdom's role in Jerusalem did not have any political aspect.

Mr. Arafat said that the declaration of principles signed with Israel in Washington last September said talks on final status issues, including Jerusalem, should start no later than two years from the implementation of the accord.

(Continued on page 7)

Cairo forum drafts 'code of conduct'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Delegates from more than 20 countries drew up a draft "code of conduct" here Monday to cooperate in protecting the environment in the Middle East, an Egyptian official said.

"The code governs regional cooperation on the environment issue, and defining the rights and commitments of the various parties," said Hagar Islamholti, head of Egypt's environmental team.

The draft came at the close of a two-day multilateral meeting which forms part of the Middle East peace process, launched in 1991. The talks will be presented

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Palestinians disappointed at slow pace of progress

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — The Palestinian flags strung outside Yasser Arafat's headquarters are tattered, and a scorching sun has bleached the vivid greens and reds.

Their sad condition reflects the fading hopes in the dusty streets of Gaza, where the end of Israeli occupation has brought neither jobs nor houses.

Militants are back to scrawling slogans on walls against the Israelis and Americans. Anti-Arafat slogans may be next.

Although Palestinians have their leaders, land and people together in one place for the first time, the initial excitement has ebbed and they grumble that self-rule is doing little to improve their lives.

"The autonomy hasn't met the most basic aspirations of the people," said Atef Murjja, a 30-year-old economist. "It has just taken away our hopes. Our frustration now is as great as our earlier expectations."

His people had hoped Mr. Arafat's presence would be the catalyst for turning the autonomous areas into a de facto state with the help of money from donor countries and Palestinians living abroad.

Soon after Mr. Arafat's festive return on July 1, however, the feeling of being in prison returned.

Israel still controls the borders of Gaza. The number of Palestinian and Israeli roadblocks has multiplied. Getting a permit to leave the Gaza Strip is more complicated.

On July 21, Mr. Arafat said he could not go to Jericho, which he originally chose as the seat of government, until Israel fulfilled its promise to establish a safe passage for Palestinians between the West Bank town and Gaza. Mr. Arafat visited Jericho for a few hours earlier in July, in an Egyptian helicopter, but has not returned.

His first month in Gaza has

been marred by violence.

Two Palestinians were killed and scores of Arabs and Israelis wounded in protests by Arab workers seeking entry into Israel. There were several attacks on Israeli settlers and soldiers and a Palestinian died during interrogation by Palestinian police.

Sufian Abu Zayda of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction said leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were not surprised by the disappointment that developed after the takeover from Israel was completed May 18.

"The people had expected the agreement to solve their economic problems, but it will take time," he said. "I'm not at all worried, because things are bound to improve."

Economists say Mr. Arafat may have only a few months to prove he can bring about change.

"If they fail to do that, the demonstrations we used to see against the Israelis will turn against the Palestinian government," one said. He requested anonymity for fear of reprisal.

Mr. Arafat has blamed his woes on donor countries, which have yet to deliver a promised \$2.4 billion in aid for development projects. Wary of the PLO's history of corruption and mismanagement, they demand that strict accounting procedures be established.

Mr. Arafat has inaugurated a juice plant, a temporary port and a U.S.-financed housing complex, but the unemployment rate remains at 45 per cent and no more than 25,000 Gazans work in Israel, the major source of jobs. That is less than one-quarter of the former number.

In an effort to cut expenses, Mr. Arafat overruled the advice of aides and ordered a 42 per cent reduction of police pay, causing widespread grumbling and doubts about the future loyalty of the 5,700-member force. "I was shocked when I heard about the cuts," said

Salem Khalil, 22, whose monthly pay went down from the equivalent of \$450 to \$268.

"I had thought our life in the Palestinian police force would be an honourable one. How can they expect a soldier to remain loyal, to keep his morale high and to be upstanding when he's hungry?"

Palestinian security sources said Mr. Arafat risks losing followers to militants, who are more organised and have the money to provide food, medical services and education to an impoverished population.

Opposition groups held a rally to criticise the autonomy government as weak and unable to provide jobs.

The fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, and Islamic Jihad have made several attacks on Israeli settlers and soldiers. The PLO is obligated under the Israel-PLO accord to halt such attacks and arrest the perpetrators.

Israel and some Palestinian groups also blame the fundamentalist groups for the border violence.

Mahmoud Zahhar of Hamas said his organisation will neither help the autonomy government nor seek a confrontation with it.

Mr. Arafat's message to the daily stream of political, social and economic delegations has not changed since his arrival: Tighten your belts and don't wait for foreign aid.

His words are so predictable that some bodyguards mouth them silently as he speaks.

They are not the words Palestinians have waited so long to hear.

"My dream is to make enough money to have a home after the suffering of living as a refugee," said police Lieutenant Ghaleb Adal, 29. "Where's that dream I came here for?"

Mr. Adal, who arrived in June from PLO headquarters in Tunis, just took a pay cut from \$815 to \$500.



Saba Arafat (second left), wife of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat; Larissa Al Wazir (second right) and the daughter (right) launch a cleanup campaign on the beach in Gaza City on Monday (AFP photo)

Japan gives \$15m for Gaza housing and clean-up

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Japan is providing \$15 million to house Palestinian policemen and clean up the newly autonomous Gaza Strip under a deal signed Monday with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"This is the first massive project to renew the Gaza Strip," where limited Palestinian autonomy was launched in May, said Terje Rod Larsen, U.N. undersecretary general and coordinator for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Japanese government is funding a \$5 million programme to collect garbage, improve sewage and roads as well as a \$10-million project to house Palestinian policemen and their families.

The projects will be implemented through the United Nations Development Programme and are expected to provide employment for up to 15,000 Palestinians in Gaza.

Mr. Larsen said \$4 million would immediately be disbursed for the clean-up project, which is to start soon and is expected to last nine

months. Japan has pledged \$200 million to be used over two years, almost half of which is in the implementation or preparatory stage, said Katsuhisa Uchida, Japan's ambassador plenipotentiary.

International donors have pledged \$2.4 billion over five years to the development of the new Palestinian self-rule areas.

But the new Palestinian authority has complained that international donors did not fulfil their pledges. The United States and the World Bank say the Palestinians must have clear accounting procedures.

Palestinian Housing Minister Zakaria Agba signed Monday's memorandum of understanding with Mr. Larsen and Mr. Uchida in the presence of Finance Minister Mohammad Nashashibi.

One of the world's most densely populated areas, Gaza suffers from a 40 per cent unemployment rate, according to experts here. Some 20,000 Gazans have permits to work in Israel, but are often subjected to Israeli army closure orders.

Mr. Arafat's wife Saba joined around 150 youngsters at a beach on Monday to launch Gaza City's annual two-week summer cleaning programme.

With Israeli occupation gone and Gaza under Palestinian self-rule, the organisers hope there will be more enthusiasm now than during the programme's four-year history.

"We expect more people to join in, because in the past everyone used to compare between the occupation and dirt," said Iyad Sarraj, one of the local organisers.

"They didn't want to clean the town as long as it was under occupation. Now, there's no more occupation."

After singing the national anthem and cheering the arrival of Saba Arafat, the teenagers rolled up their sleeves and got down to work clearing away seaweed and collecting litter.

Mrs. Arafat, in a dark blue shirt and jeans, joined in for an hour, together with Um Jihad, widow of slain senior PLO official Khalil Wazir. Half a dozen guards stood at their side.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two hanged for rape in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Two men, including a Christian Armenian, were hanged in public in northern Iran for committing a rape during the holy Shi'ite Muslim month of Moharram, a newspaper reported here Monday. Emdad Mahrami and Mikhail Rostami-Zadeh were found guilty of forcing their way into a house in the village of Ochabine, near Jolfa, and raping a woman at knifepoint. Before being hanged each of the accused received 110 lashes of the whip, the Hamshahri newspaper said.

Islamic ministers to meet on Bosnia Thursday

CAIRO (R) — An Islamic contact group of Bosnia will meet in Geneva on Thursday to hear the Bosnian government's views on the outcome of a big-power contact group meeting, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said on Monday. The Islamic group — foreign ministers of eight Muslim countries — had delayed its meeting from July 29 specifically to find out what the big powers would decide. The foreign ministers of the United States, Russia and major European states agreed in Geneva on Saturday to tighten existing sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro and to ask the U.N. Security Council to extend its embargo on the rump Yugoslav republics. But on an issue close to Muslim hearts, lifting the ban on arming Bosnian Muslims, they said nothing new. They described it as a "last resort" measure that "could become unavoidable." Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said the Islamic meeting would decide on the group's next step to support Bosnia. The members of the group, part of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, are Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Qatar to buy Mirage warplanes

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar has signed a deal with French company Marcel Dassault to buy Mirage 2000/5 warplanes, the government said Monday during a visit by French Defence Minister Francois Leotard. Qatari Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Abdullah Al Thani made the announcement after talks with Mr. Leotard, who arrived here Monday on a one-day visit during which the two signed a military cooperation accord. Sheikh Hamad did not give details about the number of jets involved or say when the agreement was signed with the French company, according to the official Qatari news agency. Nor was there any information about the defence pact. "This accord shows how solid ties are between the two countries and the intention of the two governments to strengthen them in the future," Sheikh Hamad said. Seventy per cent of the equipment in Qatar's armed forces come from France and Paris is hoping to sell Doha Leclerc tanks, diplomats said. Mr. Leotard last visited Qatar in November 1993.

Moroccans await passage at Spanish ports

ALGECIRAS (AP) — Thousands of Moroccans jammed the ports of southern Spain Monday awaiting passage home across the Strait of Gibraltar for their summer vacation. Some 3,500 vehicles crowded the parking areas near the port of Algeciras, with new arrivals expected to wait 24 hours for ferry service to Tangier and between four and five hours for transport to Ceuta, a Spanish enclave in Morocco. The migration of Moroccans, most of whom work in France, the Netherlands and other European Union countries, strains the port facilities every year. Since this year's influx began in earnest in mid-July, 643,000 passengers have passed through Algeciras, Almeria and Malaga in 137,000 vehicles, according to the civil protection office. A total of 10 ferries work out of Algeciras, with trips to Tangier taking three hours and to Ceuta one hour. On a busy day, there are more than 40 departures from the port. The less-frequented ferries from Almeria and Malaga ply the waters to Melilla, the other Spanish North Africa enclave, and gateway to eastern Morocco. The greatest traffic of Moroccan vacationers ends by Aug. 15. They return trips tend to be more staggered, meaning there is less traffic in the port cities.

Missing Israeli Jew turns up as Muslim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli Jew who went missing for 24 years has turned up as a Muslim convert with an Arab name living in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, the Israeli news agency ITIM said Monday. Nir Yaakov, 63, was tracked down after his family launched legal proceedings at Haifa court in northern Israel to tell his share of the inheritance. Investigations showed that Mr. Yaakov had not died as believed but was living under the name of Abed Al Aziz in Bethlehem. In his last letters to relatives in 1970, Mr. Yaakov told them of his intention to convert to Islam and asked them not to try to contact him.

Kuwaiti prince leaves S. Arabia after talks

DUBAI (R) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah left Saudi Arabia on Monday saying his talks with King Fahd reflected a common desire to consult on all matters, the official Saudi Agency said. "My visit to my second country comes within the context of the desire by the wise leadership of the sister countries to continue coordination and consultation on all matters," Sheikh Saad said in a departure statement carried by the agency. Sheikh Saad, who met King Fahd in Jeddah on Sunday, said they exchanged views on how to boost cooperation with the country that gave shelter to his government during seven months of exile after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait. Kuwait's Al Sawayess newspaper said on Sunday Sheikh Saad would during his visit extend an invitation from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to King Fahd to visit Kuwait. King Fahd last visited Kuwait in December 1991 for a summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

U.N. sees Israel-PLO accord as proceeding smoothly

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations, always a sympathiser with the Palestinians, have been organising numerous seminars and debates on how the international community could respond positively and contribute to help the Palestinians develop their economy following the landmark autonomy agreement of September.

Taking the lead in the U.N. deliberations, which have resulted in materialising some development projects in Gaza and Jericho through the various U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisation (NGOs) active there, was the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

A good part of the \$2.4 billion aid that the international community pledged for the Palestinians after the signing of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord is expected to be channelled through the U.N. agencies.

Several countries have already signed bilateral accords with such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP) under which contributions were made to the development of the occupied territories through expanded U.N. programmes.

The channelling of the funds through the U.N. is an irritant to the PLO, which would like to receive funds directly. However, it has not become a serious problem in cooperation between the organisation and the U.N. at various would forums.

The latest meeting arranged by the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, headed by Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal, was held last week for a review of the latest developments on the Palestinian scene and the outcome of discussions held at various forums.

The committee chairman described "the popular reception (Yasser Arafat) received when he entered Gaza in early July" reflected the popular support of the peace process and the Palestinian leadership," a U.N. press release said.

Mr. Cisse also hailed as an important development the appointment by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali of a special coordinator to serve as a focal point for all U.N. economic, social and other

assistance to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. Nasser Al Kidwa, permanent observer for Palestine, said that the implementation of the agreement between Israel and the PLO had gone smoothly. The Palestinian police force had been deployed and on July 1, Mr. Arafat had paid his first visit to Gaza and Jericho. He had moved his headquarters from Tunis to the seat of Palestinian authority in Jericho. The authority was functioning normally and increasing its activities on a daily basis, he said.

Despite those achievements, some points needed further discussion between the two sides, he pointed out. The exact area of Jericho and the placement of Palestinian police on the bridge from Jericho to Jordan needed to be determined. Also, there were problems with the release of Palestinian detainees.

The most important test now was to move quickly to the second phase of negotiations in order to achieve an agreement on autonomy for the rest of the West Bank. In addition, an agreement on the general election with the participation of Palestinians was needed.

"There had been some setbacks to the implementation of the declaration of principles," Mr. Kidwa continued.

According to the declaration, elections should have taken place this month. "Unfortunately, it was not possible to adhere to that timetable," the U.N. quoted Mr. Kidwa as saying.

"Also, Israel had failed to relinquish its authority with regard to five areas as agreed upon in the declaration. In spite of the failure to abide by the text and the timetable, it was possible to expect reasonable negotiations," he said.

The issue of external economic and technical assistance was also of great relevance, he continued. Pledges from donors had amounted to \$2.4 billion over a five-year period, \$1.2 billion of which was to be spent in the first three years. The Palestinians appreciated such pledges as they reflected the commitment of the international community. However, such international assistance was not as forthcoming as had been hoped for, he said.

In answer to the question raised by some critics that the Palestinians were not ready to handle those funds, Mr. Kidwa expressed his conviction that the Palestinian people were "ready enough."

In his opinion, he said, the donors and the World Bank could have done a better job. "It was not a question of putting the blame on anyone, but the issue was important because of the extremely difficult economic situation in the area," he was quoted.

"Forty to 45 per cent of the population was unemployed and the occupying power had destroyed the economic infrastructure. The Palestinian people had received the peace agreement positively and enjoyed the fruits of the new security, but no economic improvement had been seen so far."

On the overall situation, he welcomed the contribution of the United Nations and called for an inter-agency meeting to facilitate maximum coordination of concerned agencies. He also stressed the importance of United Nations activities and those of Special Coordinator Terje Rod Larsen, and said that those activities should be extended to the whole occupied territory and not be limited to Gaza, Jericho and the West Bank.

He also noted another important development in Arab-Israeli relations, namely that two days ago Jordan and Israel had formally made peace and issued a declara-

tion. Palestine would extend its full support to future progress in relations between Syria and Israel, and between Lebanon and Israel.

Also reviewed during the meeting were reports of conferences held by the Non-Alignment Movement, the Organisation of African Unity and North American NGOs as well as plans for a combined United Nations-NGOs meeting the question of Palestine.

Mustapha Illi, Chief of the Palestine and Decolonisation Section of the Department of Public Information (DPI), introduced a new publication of DPI on the question of Palestine, entitled Promoting a Culture for Peace in the Middle East.

It was the fourth in the department's Israeli-Palestinian dialogue series. The publication reflected the proceedings of the International Encounter for European journalists on the Question of Palestine organised by DPI from June 9 to 11, 1993 in London to discuss how to promote a culture for peace in the Middle East. The members of the encounter panel were policymakers and analysts from Palestine and Israel, as well as from Egypt, United Kingdom and the United States.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Envoys Special
17:30 News in French
18:05 Grandis Gals
18:40 News in Hebrew
19:15 Varieties from Jerash Festival
19:30 Innovations
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hollywood Saint Malicia
21:00 The Constish
21:30 News in English
22:00 The Burden of Proof
22:30 Harry and the Andersons

PRAYER TIMES

04:16 Fajr
05:46 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:36 Maghreb
20:07 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
St. in Sule Church Tel. 661757
Ternassians Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 632326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811285.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will continue to prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/28
Amman 25/34
Desert 16/30
Jordan Valley 24/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27, Aqaba 36, Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 39 per cent.
Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawiadeh 736011
Dr. Khalidun Asfour 668573
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 895140
Dr. Jamal Jabari 795440
Firas pharmacy 661812
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636782
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simicani pharmacy 637669
Najib pharmacy 841592

JERICO:
Dr. Ali Shogari 346140
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 985000
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Foot Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 846390
Police Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 877467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 08-53200
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Fusheh Medical Centre 813813/32
Al Khild Maternity, J. Am. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Am. 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 661714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 842845
Al-Musader Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Jalban, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/2
Army, Marid 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983323
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983323
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)983323
DR.DR.
Princess Basma Hospital (02)727555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727555
Jal Al-Nadous Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 London (RJ)
08:30 London (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:25 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
17:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
18:45 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:25 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
03:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
07:25 Madrid (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09:35 Vienna (OS)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Muscat, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
18:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:25 Paris (RJ)
12:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:05 Cairo (RJ)
13:55 London (RJ)
14:30 Madrid (RJ)
20:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Beirut (add) (ME)
10:20 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
13:50 Vienna (OS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
20:30 Damascus (AZ)
06:30 Kiev (UZ)
01:30 Amsterdam (RJ)
01:30 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammer) 620
Cabbage 130/70
Carrot 250/170
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumbers (large) 240/120
Cucumbers (small) 240/120
Eggplant 180/100
Fig 450/250
Garlic 850/550
Grapes 1000/500
Lemon 420/280
Marrow (large) 180/100
Marrow (small) 300/200
Mokhalah 150/80
Okra 1000/500
Orange 500/300
Onion (dry) 250/150
Peanut 160/100
Pepper (hot) 250/150
Pepper (sweet) 150/100
Potato 400/250
Peaches 600/400
Tomato 110/50
Soybean 400/300
Watermelon 130/80

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03:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
07:25 Madrid (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09



VISITING QAF CENTRE: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday tours parts of Tafleeh Governorate where she inspected the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) Centre operating in the region. The centre has been providing mother and child care services, and organising and running social and vocational programmes for local women. The Princess, who is honorary chairperson of QAF, opened a QAF branch at Alameh and entrusted a local charitable society with its activities. Later, Princess Basma met women residents of the area to hear their requests and their views. She urged the women to set up an ad hoc committee to organise and head their activities, following the example of women's unions work in other governorates.

Prime Minister briefs Cabinet on King's Washington visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet, meeting in an extraordinary session Monday, heard a report by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Briefing journalists on the session afterwards, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said that the prime minister went into details of the King's meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, as well as his meetings with other senior U.S. officials and his address to the joint session of the U.S. Congress.

In addition, the premier reviewed the important clauses included in the Washington Declaration signed by King Hussein and Mr. Rabin on July 25, and elaborated on issues of concern to the Kingdom that were included in the document, according to Mr. Al Hassan.

The cabinet ministers voiced their deep appreciation of the King's endeavours and sacrifices for the nation, and praised the outcome of his trip to Washington and his talks on the Middle East question and the Palestine



Abdul Salam Majali

issue, said Mr. Al Hassan. In reply to a question about Article III of the Washington Declaration and its compatibility with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, concerning the status of Jerusalem, the minister said that Dr. Majali explained to the ministers that Jordan will maintain custody of the holy places in Jerusalem, which means Jordan will be given the role to negotiate the future of the holy places during the final phase of the peace process.

The minister said Article III reaffirmed Jordan's right

of custody over the holy places in the city and did not create a new right for the Kingdom, stressing that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will retain the right to negotiate the political and geographical future of the city of Jerusalem in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Al Hassan said Jordan, which severed administrative links with the West Bank in 1988, has retained its right to run the affairs of and care for the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Aug. 25 set for Lloyds presence at Aqaba

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Aug. 25 has been set as the target date for the beginning of a land-based verification regime at Aqaba to replace offshore interceptions and inspections by warships as part of the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq, official sources said Monday.

They said two officials of Lloyds Register, a London-based independent firm, arrived last week in Jordan and were working at Aqaba to prepare the groundwork for the stationing of a six-member team of Lloyds surveyors who will observe all incoming and outgoing cargo.

"Hopefully, the arrangement will be finalised in all respects and in place by Aug. 25," said one source. "By then, it is also expected that the U.N. will approve the arrangement." The sources noted that the U.N. Security Council had not issued an administrative or executive decision approving the sea-based inspections to enforce the sanctions against Iraq when it imposed the sweeping trade embargo following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"However, we think it is absolutely necessary this time around that we have a fully formalised U.N. decision behind the land-based

verification regime so that no changes could be made in the future without a similar U.N. move," said the source.

Other sources said Jordan had forwarded all necessary documents to the U.N. in New York requesting the world body's approval of the Jordanian-Lloyds agreement and the method of payment to Lloyds Register through an escrow account controlled by the U.N.

The Kingdom is expected to claim the cost of the Lloyds Register presence at Aqaba from the U.N. compensation fund set up in 1991 for war reparations for direct and indirect victims of the Gulf crisis.

Almost all the six Lloyds Register surveyors expected at Aqaba will be of British nationality, the sources said. The U.S.-led naval task force now patrolling the Red Sea will cease its interceptions of Aqaba-bound ships as soon as the arrangement goes into place. "But they are unlikely to leave the area immediately," said another source. "They might want to hang around keeping watch to ensure that the arrangement works well before deciding to move away from the area."

Expected changes

Amin Kavar, president

of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association, said the Lloyds Register presence at Aqaba would help substantially reduce the extra costs borne by Jordanian importers and facilitate the flow of cargo.

He said that many ships coming to Aqaba had to take an extra turnaround among Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Hodeida in Yemen and Port Sudan to comply with the guidelines and requirements laid down by the inspectors aboard the frigates enforcing the sanctions.

The elimination of such a costly manoeuvre will contribute substantially to reducing freight for Aqaba-bound cargo," Mr. Kavar told the Jordan Times, noting that importers were paying \$500 extra per 20-foot container and \$1,000 per 40-foot container and \$15 per tonne of general cargo demanded by ship-owners to make up for the delay and diversion.

"Vessels will also be able to use full capacity since cargo accessibility for high-sea inspections will no longer be a requirement," he noted.

Nighttime sailings will also be possible, Mr. Kavar said, referring to the practice of the inspectors to keep ships that arrive after sunset waiting overnight for inspections to begin the next morning.

Another expected change at Aqaba is the

possible resumption of regular sailings to the port by shipping lines which suspended them in the face of the difficulties posed by the inspections, Mr. Kavar said.

However, he cautioned, "it will not mean any boom in the flow of cargo through Aqaba."

"For such an improvement there has to be an easing if not the lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq," he said.

The verification procedures by Lloyds surveyors will be part of the regular customs inspections process at Aqaba as adopted by the authorities. Lloyds Register representatives will be included in the regular teams that are formed by the Ports Corporation, the Customs Department and the concerned clearing agent as well as health authorities as warranted to inspect goods coming into Jordan as part of the Kingdom's regulations on imports.

Along with the team, the surveyors will verify that the goods conform to the relevant invoices, bill of lading and other documents and make their reports to the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

"Beyond this observation, the Lloyds people will have no other role in the context of goods imported to Jordan," said an official, emphasising that the role of

the surveyors will be that of observers and not inspectors.

Goods coming through Aqaba and destined for Iraq will be treated differently. No Iraq-bound cargo except food and medicine will be allowed to leave the port of Aqaba without proper authorisation from the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

The government is expected to approve this week a set of tariffs for the fees that the Jordanian importers and possibly exporters will pay to foot the cost of the Lloyds Register presence at the port.

Importers will pay an average of around JD1 per every tonne of goods coming in as general cargo.

Separate tariffs are set for different kinds of cargo depending on the nature of packing, whether containerised or bulk cargo, and key items such as foodstuffs, medicine etc. are exempt from paying the charge. The tariff structure, drawn up by the Ports Corporation in conjunction with the Jordan Shipping Agents Association, is awaiting government approval.

The per-tonne levy will apply only to general cargo while the charge for containerised cargo will be around an average of JD25 per 20-foot container, which normally holds about 18 tonnes.

British business team to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A British business delegation plans to visit Jordan towards the end of next month to discuss prospects of increasing trade with the Kingdom, according to Ian Cliff, head of a British team currently in the country.

Mr. Cliff, who is the head of Middle East Near East and North Africa branch at the Department of Trade and Industry in Britain, made the statement at a meeting here Monday with Hamdi Tabbaa, chairman of the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA).

The British business delegation will hold meetings with Jordanian businesspersons to discuss cooperation in launching joint investment projects, said Mr. Cliff. At the meeting, with the JBA chief, the two sides reviewed ways of promoting economic and trade cooperation through the private sectors of the two countries and studied areas where joint ventures, especially in industry, would be possible.

"We focused on implementing small and medium-size projects with joint financing from the private sectors of both countries, and considered products that could be marketed in Jordan and abroad."

Mr. Tabbaa added that Jordan required credit facilities in excess of the six-month period which Britain currently offers the Kingdom. Jordan needs long-term credit facilities so that businesses can launch projects, especially in view of the coming peace, when prospects for investments are increased, said Mr. Tabbaa.

He said the British official has promised to take up this issue with the concerned authorities.

Romania, Jordan to sign updated trade agreement

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-member Romanian delegation Wednesday will end a five-day visit to Jordan during which they negotiated the terms of a new trade agreement with officials from the ministries of Industry and Trade and Planning and discussed trade exchanges with representatives of the Jordanian private sector.

Michael Burghel, commercial councillor at the Romanian embassy in Amman, told the Jordan Times that the two sides have prepared the text of an agreement which updates an earlier one signed in 1968. The new agreement

is to be signed by the ministers of trade and commerce probably in October of this year.

Under the terms of the updated agreement, Jordan is granted a most-favoured-nation status in trade, with free access to Romanian markets to promote the sale of Jordanian products, Mr. Burghel said.

Currently, Jordan exports medicines, vegetables, citrus fruits, detergents and phosphates as well as television sets to Romanian markets.

Mr. Burghel said that last year Jordan exported \$4 million worth of these products to Romania, against \$42 million worth of Romanian products imported to the Kingdom, including livestock, meat, cars, tim-

ber, electrical appliances, chemicals, steel products, fabrics, window glass and porcelain.

The new agreement will facilitate dealings between the private sector companies of both countries, allowing for direct sales to Romanian companies or through 1,700 Jordanian-Romanian joint companies currently operating in Romania, said Mr. Burghel.

The delegation Monday met Marwan Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, to discuss further aspects of the updated agreement following their meetings earlier with Khalidoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Children know that 'the show must go on'

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, children-related activities were completely neglected whether by the press or by the festival's administrative body at a time when all the children's performances were attended by huge audiences.

"Mr. Hat and His Tale," of the Children's Friends Club was one such play staged at the Sound and Light Theatre.

The play tells the story of a prince who lives in a castle and does not know anything about the world outside, and his father ordered the servants to let him win any match or game.

So, the five-year-old prince was raised knowing nothing about sorrow, pain, loss, or disappointment.

When he grew older, the prince decided to travel

and see the world. Only then did he come across misery, sadness, pain and tears. But his heart was as hard as stone, until he met a poor girl whose father was a fisherman.

At the end, he felt for himself the meanings of pain and suffering.

Directed by Imad Yunis, the play teaches children how to love their countries, how to follow the rules of society, how to do things correctly, and how to love others and interact with them.

"The play is written in a simple way to teach the kids good lessons, and to entertain adults," Mr. Yunis told the Jordan Times.

"We aim at introducing a respective art, a convincing art. This tale was written after reading many like-texts. We borrowed the lessons of each to enrich ours," added Mr. Yunis. "This tale, I think, is very important. It presents guidelines for the specialists in the field of children's

drama."

Although the message of the tale hits its goal, the technique and decor looked rather poor. Black and white are not preferred for children's theatre, yet the director chose this stark background throughout all the scenes. In addition, the characters were wearing black trousers and white T-shirts, except Mr. Hat.

"Action is more impressive than decor, I believe," commented Mr. Yunis. "Children's theatres abroad... America introducing killing and torture... all black. So, I am trying to catch the world's steps."

A drama teacher, Mr. Yunis, although bappy with the children's performance, was very disappointed with the Jerash Festival organisers because, he said, they did not supply him with the simplest facilities he asked for... a 3-step ladder for the stage, or any one to help him build the scant set. And because of this, he said, two of the child actors were injured.



The Children's Friends Club Sunday night performs a scene from "Mr. Hat and His Tale" at the Sound and Light Theatre at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Mr. Yunis also added that there was no press coverage for the children's festivities, and tickets were sold only half and hour before each show. Despite all these problems, the young actors proved to be stronger. They were creative with their spontaneous performances and understood the meaning of "the show must go on."



PRE-SCHOOL NEEDS: Hanna' Kurd, president of Al Zahra' Welfare Society for Child Care Monday explains to Minister of State and acting Social Development Minister Abdallah Jazi the aim of a training seminar on pre-school stage and its special needs inaugurated Monday at Sanafer Elementary School in Shamsiah. Participants include 40 representatives from the ministries of Education and Social Development, Royal Jordanian Army and the Jordanian Armed Forces in addition to several welfare societies in Jordan (Pera photo)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Nazek Al Malaikah admitted in hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi poet Nazek Al Malaikah Monday was admitted to King Hussein Medical Centre. According to Minister of Culture Jumaa Hamad, His Majesty King Hussein has asked that Mrs. Al Malaikah (80) receive all the necessary medical attention she requires. The Ministry of Culture and the Iraqi embassy in Amman arranged Mrs. Malaikah's transportation to Amman, where she arrived Sunday and was admitted to hospital Monday, said Mr. Hamad. Mrs. Malaikah was reported to have been ill for some time prior to her hospitalisation in Jordan.

SSC collects JD 13m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) collected JD 13.016 million in June in premiums from beneficiaries covered by SSC law, raising to JD 58.397 million the total amount collected since the beginning of 1994, according to a statement issued Friday. By the end of June, the statement said, a total 751,692 citizens were

covered by the law and paying premiums to the SSC among them, 7,216 joined the system in June. It said the SSC currently covers workers employed by 9,012 businesses in the private and public sectors including Jordanians and non-Jordanians. According to the statement also, the SSC has so far invested JD 603.7 million of its collected capital in local firms, housing projects, government bonds issued by the Central Bank of Jordan, lands and other real estate, hotels and banks.

Agricultural exports declined in 1993

AMMAN (AP) — The state-owned Jordan Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) said the Kingdom last year sold fruits and vegetables worth JD 65.9 million or 9.5 per cent of its overall exports. However, the AMO's annual report showed that key importers of last year's produce were Gulf states with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) getting 34 per cent of Amman's total exports of 345,000 metric tonnes. Bahrain got 25.3 per cent, Qatar 10.3 per cent and Saudi Arabia 10.6 per cent. Kuwait, once a major trade partner, has not imported any goods from Jordan for four years.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Umaya Folkloric Group at the South Theatre at 20:30.
- ★ Performance by the Armenian Al Jeel Al Jedee Society of Culture at Artemis Theatre at 19:00.
- ★ Monodrama: "Anthology of Martyrdom and Exile" at the Artemis Theatre at 19:00.
- ★ Children's play: "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 20:00 p.m.
- ★ Musical performance at the Garasia Theatre at 19:30.
- ★ Play entitled "You Are Not You" at the Garasia Theatre at 20:30.

NEWS HOUR

- ★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Ceramic exhibition by artist Haider Ra'ouf at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Jordan Industries Expo at the International Motor Exhibition (Tel. 653854).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 626932).
- ★ "A one-painting exhibition" (about 15-metre long which took two years to complete) by Marwan Al Allan at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luwethbeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).

الجميع

State of siege declared in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's de facto president slammed the international community Monday, accusing foreign governments of ganging up on the Caribbean nation and looking to start a war.

"The whole world has declared war on Haiti," military-backed Provisional President Emile Jonassaint said in a speech broadcast on state television.

Asking all Haitians to unite to face the threat of invasion, Mr. Jonassaint said: "Facing the intolerable, I ask you to put all political passions aside, to assume proudly and courageously our duty as Haitians."

"Seventy-nine years after the landing of U.S. Marines on our national soil, a threat of invasion and occupation of our country is in the works," he added, before criticising the international community for its "lax morality."

The early morning announcement came just hours after the U.N. Security Council voted 12-0 in New York on a resolution allowing the United States to invade Haiti, should it choose, to remove the military leaders who took power in a bloody September 1991 coup.

President Clinton has refused to rule out military action to oust the coup leaders but U.S. officials have repeatedly said an invasion is not "imminent."

Some have argued for delaying any intervention to give harsh sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the U.N.

time to work.

Since the tough new measures were imposed in May and June, trade between Haiti and the rest of the world has ground to a halt. The country's isolation was complete Saturday when air links were cut. All money transfers between the two nations are forbidden, prices have skyrocketed, unemployment has soared and many businesses have closed.

Mr. Jonassaint, an 81-year-old former Supreme Court president, also blasted the country's ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Mr. Aristide, a popular Roman Catholic priest who became Haiti's first democratically elected leader in December 1990, reigned for less than eight months before being toppled. He is currently living in exile in Washington while diplomatic efforts to restore him continue.

The U.N. vote opens the way for the United States to intervene to oust the coup leaders but also provides for the presence of 6,000 U.N. troops in the country once a "safe and stable environment" has been secured.

U.S. officials said the vote sent a clear warning to Haiti's army leaders that they must resign soon, or else.

Only China and Brazil, which represented the misgivings of Latin American nations, abstained from the vote.

There was no official response to the U.N. ballot from Haiti's ruling military but Mr. Jonassaint and mem-

bers of his government met with Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras before the de facto president gave his address.

The military installed Mr. Jonassaint as provisional president on May 11 but the move was roundly denounced by the international community as "illegal" and "unconstitutional."

Most of the capital was in darkness when Mr. Jonassaint's short speech aired at 2.30 a.m. Power blackouts have intensified in recent days and many parts of the city receive less than seven hours of state power a day.

Those who did have electricity were treated to a pre-speech diet of nationalist slogans, footage of the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama and eulogies to Charlemagne Peralte, the black resistance leader killed in 1919 by occupying U.S. forces.

The U.N. measure gives no timetable for a possible invasion but "authorises member states to form a multinational force under a unified command and control" and "to use all necessary means" to facilitate the departure from Haiti of the military leadership.

The phrase "all necessary means" was used in a 1990 Gulf war resolution that permitted U.S. forces to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

The resolution also provides for U.N. observers to monitor any potential invasion. It calls for a 6,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force to take over when the

invaders leave and a "secure and stable environment" has been established.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, while refusing to say if an invasion was imminent, told the Council the "moment of decision is at hand."

She said the Council was giving a "simple" message to General Raoul Cedras, his deputy, General Philippe Biamby, and Port-Au-Prince's police chief, Colonel Michel Francois, who led the coup that overthrew Mr. Aristide in September 1991.

"You too have a choice. You can depart voluntarily and soon, or you can depart involuntarily and soon. The sun is setting on your ruthless ambition," she said.

Before the council voted, key Latin American states, including Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela as well as Cuba, spoke strongly against a possible invasion.

Mexico's ambassador, Victor Flores Olea, head of the Latin American and Caribbean group of states at the United Nations, said the crisis in Haiti was not a threat to peace and security of the hemisphere or the world.

"From the standpoint of history, military intervention in our hemisphere has invariably been traumatic," he said, adding that the resolution set a dangerous precedent.

"In other words, a kind of a carte blanche is given for a multinational force to act indefinitely when it deems it to be appropriate," he said.



File photo taken in May 1994, at Port-Au-Prince of Interim President Emile Jonassaint, who ordered a state of siege in Haiti following the U.N. Security Council's decision to authorize a U.S.-led invasion if the military regime does not cede power (AFP photo)

Hostages put to work while Cambodian rebels wait for ransom response

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas have put three foreign hostages to work in the paddy fields while they await a response to a ransom demand of \$50,000 U.S. in gold for each hostage, a senior police officer Monday.

"The Khmer Rouge have made them work hard digging the paddy fields. Their hands were sore because they were not used to this work," the police officer said.

The police had received the information about the hostages from local people used as intermediaries between the authorities and the guerrillas, the officer said.

The three, Australian David Wilson, 29, Mark Slater, 28, from Britain, and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, were seized in a train ambush in southern Kampot province last week. They are being detained at the jungle headquarters of

Khmer Rouge Commander Paet at Phnom Vour near the scene of the ambush.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh showed AFP a three-page handwritten letter Sunday indicating that the hostages were safe and outlining the Khmer Rouge demands. "I can just say they are safe. We got a handwritten letter which says they are alive," the prince said at his residence.

The first page had a photo of Wilson attached and was also signed by the other two hostages while the two other pages, written in neat Khmer script, said the guerrillas wanted a 100 damangs of gold for the release of each hostage.

A damang of gold is worth about \$500.

Prince Ranariddh did not comment on whether a ransom would be paid but said the government's priority was

for the prompt, safe release of the three.

The respective Western embassies here have refused to comment on the ransom or anything about the case.

But government officials said the embassies were against paying a ransom in the case of Australian and two Britons who were kidnapped by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas in April on the main road to Sihanoukville in the neighbouring Koh Kong province.

Forensic tests are currently being carried out on human remains that are suspected to be those of Kellie Wilkinson and Britons Dominic Chappell and Tina Dornier.

A foreign affairs spokesman in Australia said Canberra would not concede to direct demands for a cash ransom but added: "There are other ways that this whole problem can be looked at and we are certainly doing that."

U.S. priest freed by Filipino Muslim rebels

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — A kidnapped American priest rescued by Filipino Muslim guerrillas said Monday he thought he would die when a firefight erupted between the rebels and his Islamic fundamentalist captors.

One bullet struck Father Clarence Bertelsman in the buttocks and another grazed his left arm during a 15-minute gunbattle around the van in which he was being held on Jolo Island in the southern Philippines Sunday.

"The thought (of being killed) crossed my mind. It was always a possibility. Many people get killed even just crossing the street," the 70-year-old missionary from Belleville, Illinois, said in an interview from his hospital bed in Zamboanga City.

Two of the kidnappers were killed in the shooting while two of his rescuers, guerrillas from the mainstream Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), were wounded.

Fr. Bertelsman was saying mass in a chapel inside Jolo Police headquarters when 15 gunmen of the Abu Sayyaf group, wearing police uniforms, seized him.

The boldness with which the extremists drove into the camp undetected and grabbed the Catholic priest without firing a shot provoked outrage in the southern Philippines.

Radio reports said the kidnappers even waved at camp guards as they drove off with Fr. Bertelsman inside their van.

"If this law enforcement unit cannot protect its own camp, how can it protect the citizens?" asked Senator Rodolfo Biazon, former armed forces chief.

Fr. Bertelsman's MNLF rescuers were thanked by government commanders Monday. The group is negotiating a final peace settlement with the government and has given its tacit support for a military assault on the fundamentalist Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf, blamed for a spate of kidnappings and bombings in the south in the past two years, is already holding a Filipino priest hostage in nearby Basilan Island.

It was not immediately clear whether the Bertelsman kidnap was an attempt by its fighters to put pressure on the military to end an attack on their strongholds.

Fr. Bertelsman said he had just finished his sermon when eight men with guns drawn walked into the chapel, and told him the local governor wanted to see him.

"I knew it was kidnapping because the governor would not call for me during a mass," Fr. Bertelsman said.

Poland honours Warsaw uprising victims as heroes

WARSAW (R) — More than 200,000 victims of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against Nazi occupation were honoured as national heroes Monday as Poland marked the 50th anniversary of one of World War II's bloodiest battles.

President Lech Walesa joined hundreds of veterans of the uprising at an outdoor mass said by Poland's Roman Catholic primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, commemorating the 63-day struggle in which the Polish capital was almost completely destroyed.

Thousands of red-and-white Polish flags fluttered over the city as medal-wearing veterans took communion in the central Marshal Jozef Pilsudski Square. Many, including Card. Glemp and Mr. Walesa, were sheltered from the blazing sun by umbrellas.

"The Warsaw uprising has a key importance to the Europe of the second half of the 20th century," Polish-born Pope John Paul said in a message read out by Papal Nuncio Jozef Kowalczyk, the Vatican's diplomatic envoy in Warsaw.

"It was the beginning of the process of shaping independent states in Central and Eastern Europe which could be fully carried out only in 1989 after the collapse of the totalitarian systems," he said, referring to the end of Communist rule.

Report: Document clears Churchill on Pearl Harbour

LONDON (AP) — A newly released wartime document clears Winston Churchill of knowing that Japan was about to attack Pearl Harbour but not warning the United States, a news report said Monday.

The Daily Telegraph said the document, an internal history of Britain's naval intelligence division, was written in 1945.

It was released from its shroud of World War II secrecy last week under Prime Minister John Major's policy of lessening British official confidentiality and was made available at the Public Record Office at Kew in West London for scrutiny by historians.

Since the end of the war some historians have sought to show that Mr. Churchill knew of an imminent Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour but refused to warn President Franklin D. Roosevelt. They say the British leader was so desperate to pitch the then neutral United States into the war that he was prepared to let the raid go ahead.

Japan's carrier-borne aircraft attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour in the early hours of Dec. 7, 1941. The United States entered the war the following day. The Pearl Harbour attack killed 2,400 people and America lost 120 aircraft

and 19 ships.

In a book in 1993, Betrayal At Pearl Harbour, authors James Rusbridges and Eric Nave claimed that Britain had cracked vital Japanese codes and was able to intercept naval signals which alerted them to an imminent attack on Pearl Harbour.

Nave, who died in July 1993, was an Australian cryptanalyst who broke important Japanese codes before and during the war.

But the Daily Telegraph quoted Anthony Best, a lecturer in international history at the London School of Economics and Political Science, as saying the newly released document clearly sets out to show Britain had no advanced knowledge of the attack.

Mr. Best told the paper in an interview: "It (the document) is an internal history for internal consumption only, so we can assume that there is no intention to conceal the truth."

He said the document states categorically: "We had not penetrated the Japanese plan to attack Pearl Harbour."

Mr. Best added: "If British Naval Intelligence, whose job it was to track the Japanese Navy, did not know about the attack, it was impossible for Churchill to have had any foreknowledge of it."

U.S. Marines join war against nature

ENTIAI, Wash. (AP) — The Marines joined the war against wildfires raging across the American west Monday, camping in a smoke-filled valley near this central Washington town to help battle the biggest blaze.

The first of 1,100 Marines from California's Camp Pendleton arrived Sunday. They were welcome relief to 2,775 sleep-starved firefighters trying to choke off a 36,800-hectare (90,900-acre) fire burning across pine-covered ridges and valleys in the Eastern Cascade Range.

Loads of Marines travelled up a winding road to a ranch donated as a campsite. They searched for clear spots among the cow pastures and rattlesnakes and pitched a city of green, two-person tents as fire crept through the woods on either side of the broad meadow.

"It's kind of eerie," said Sgt. Mark Grebetz, puffing a cigarette. "It reminds me of the Gulf war, with all the smoke."

A second battalion of about 550 Marines was scheduled to reach camp by Tuesday. Another 1,000 soldiers in two army battalions are training at Fort Hood, Texas, and expected to join firefighters in Idaho and Montana Wednesday, Army spokeswoman Dixie Porter said.

Executed Soviet general was 'crown jewel' of U.S. spy network — CIA

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Information passed to the CIA over more than 20 years by Soviet General Dimitri Polyakov was so valuable it led to renewed Sino-U.S. ties and victory in the Gulf war, a magazine reported.

CIA officials quoted by Time magazine said Gen. Polyakov, a top officer in the Soviet Union's military intelligence unit, paid with his life when CIA agent turned Soviet spy Aldrich Ames exposed him.

"What General Polyakov did for the West didn't just help win the cold war, it kept the cold war from becoming hot. Gen. Polyakov's role was invaluable," CIA Director James Woolsey told the weekly magazine.

Gen. Polyakov was by far

the most important loss stemming from Ames' treason. Of all the double agents recruited by the United States during the cold war, "Polyakov was the jewel in the crown," Mr. Woolsey said.

Mr. Woolsey has been leading a public relations campaign in recent weeks in an effort to counter efforts by Ames to minimise the impact of his spying for Moscow.

In January 1990, Pravda, then the official publication of the Soviet government, announced Gen. Polyakov's execution on March 15, 1988. Ames was convicted in February to life in prison for espionage.

Code named "top bat", Gen. Polyakov began working for the U.S. in 1961. The

documents he passed to the CIA filled 25 drawers at the CIA, according to Time.

When he was posted in Rangoon in the late 1960s, Gen. Polyakov transmitted information gathered by Soviet forces on the Chinese army and the Vietnamese.

As head of the intelligence agency's China division, he photographed documents revealing the growing differences between China and the Soviet Union.

Promoted to general in 1974, Gen. Polyakov had access to technical information on Soviet anti-tank missiles.

According to Time, this information helped the United States during the Gulf war in 1991 fighting Iraqi forces armed with Soviet tanks.

N. Korea accepts plan for 'human chain' for peace

TOKYO (R) — North Korea's pan-religious organisation agreed Monday to a proposal by its South Korean counterpart to take part in a "human chain" peace programme this year, state-run radio Pyongyang reported.

A spokesman for the (North) Korean Religionists Association issued a statement asking the South Korean group to send delegates to the border village of Panmunjom on Aug. 5 to work out details, Radio Pyongyang said in a broadcast monitored in Tokyo by the Radiopress news agency.

The South Korean group called on the north side Sunday to help stage the event, called the "1994 North-South human chain rally for peace and unification."

South Korean authorities have always opposed such unofficial North-South contacts in the past, insisting that responsibility for relations with the hostile Stalinist state remain firmly in government hands. The military controls all access to Panmunjom, making unofficial border contacts impossible.

Beware of killer fish, holidaymakers warned

LONDON (AFP) — Authorities in Britain warned holidaymakers to be on the look out for potentially lethal weaver fish which have been appearing around the British coastline. The fish's dorsal fins contain a strong poison.

"If it stings a frail old person or a baby, it can easily mean death," said Lee Marshfield, an official at the Sea Life Centre in the southern resort of Portsmouth. A four-year-old child was hospitalised after stepping on a weaver fish in Bournemouth and a 12-year-old was also taken to hospital when he was stung by a fish near Poole, Dorset.

On the Isle of Wight, a 40-year-old woman received treatment when she too was stung. It is believed the fish have been attracted to the British coast by the unusually warm summer.

14-year-old breaks record for beret toss

BERZENE, France (AFP) — Jean-Michel Moulin, a 14-year-old resident of this hamlet of 40 people, won a yearly beret-tossing contest with a hurl of over 36 metres (119 feet). With thousands of spectators looking on, he shattered the previous record of 31.6 metres (104 feet).

Hong Kong judges want cannabis legalised

HONG KONG (R) — Two of Hong Kong's top judges want the use of the drug cannabis legalised. One high court judge, Justice Godfrey, said the ban made no sense while alcohol and tobacco were legal, the South China Sunday Morning Post reported.

"I am for decriminalisation," Justice Godfrey, 61, said. "Since human beings are allowed to smoke themselves to death with cigarettes they ought to be allowed to smoke marijuana in the privacy of their own homes."

Justice Kaplan, 52, also of the High Court, said the use of cannabis was commonplace and there was no proof it led users to more dangerous drugs, the news-paper reported. "There is clearly a growing demand for the drug and a lot of money to be made from it," he said.

"So if someone is going to supply it why should it be criminals?"

British pubs shortly to stay open Sundays

LONDON (AFP) — Pubs in England and Wales, which now have to close Sunday afternoons, may soon be allowed to stay open all day, The Sunday Telegraph reported. The paper said the Home Office was preparing a bill "probably" for the next parliamentary session to do away with the restrictions on opening hours Sundays.

At present pubs have to close from 03:00 p.m. to 07:00 p.m. Sunday. The paper said the government was even considering extending opening hours by one hour Fridays and Saturdays allowing pubs to close at midnight on those days.

A Home Office spokesman quoted by the paper dismissed the reports as "speculation" though he said the government would take a decision on the matter very soon.

Nigerians

Lagos (R) — General Abacha's takeover was met with a wave of protests in Lagos, Nigeria's second city, Monday.

Protesters in Lagos, who are mostly Yorubas, said they were angry at the military's decision to take power.

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UNICEF: Rwanda refugee toll tops 50,000

KIGALI (AFP) — British troops were due to arrive in Rwanda Monday to join the international bid to encourage frightened refugees to come home as a U.N. official said the death toll in disease-ridden camps in Zaire topped 50,000. Two Hercules cargo planes carrying British medical teams and 60 army engineers, vehicles and medical and technical equipment lifted off from southern England for Rwanda early Monday, with another 540 soldiers due in the next two weeks. UNICEF spokeswoman Marie Meunier, back from a visit to Goma in eastern Zaire, said that according to French soldiers burying the bodies, more than 50,000 refugees — "mostly women and children" — have died in camps around the town. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) earlier announced that the death toll among some 1.2 million Rwandans who fled to Goma from a three-month civil war and ethnic carnage "topped the 20,000 mark Sunday."

UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said in Geneva that a cholera epidemic among the refugees appeared to have passed its peak in the Goma region, where aid workers had been able to improve fresh water supplies in the camps. "Three quarters of these people died not of cholera but of exhaustion and dehydration," a U.N. World Health Organisation (WHO) official told AFP, after warnings at the weekend that dysentery was becoming a major cause of death.

The British troops are to join U.S., French, and U.N. troops in a humanitarian bid to restore Rwanda's infrastructure and persuade millions of refugees and displaced people to return and seek relief without fear for their lives in revenge attacks after the war. Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Michael Wemyss said before departure that the goal was to create a "sufficient climate of calm and normality that will encourage Rwandan refugees up on the north-west border to come back into the centre to start picking up their lives."

U.S. Air Force personnel now running the airport in Kigali said they had handled 14 incoming flights in 14 hours since a round-the-clock aid operation began late Sunday. Six U.S. planes were among the flights, as well as aircraft sent by other Western nations or chartered by non-governmental organisations such as the Belgian wing of Medicus Sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors Without Borders).

MSF Nurse Meinie Nicolai, who was among the six medical staff that flew in from Brussels with 51 tonnes of equipment, cholera kits and other drugs, said it was the first such MSF had made to Rwanda as part of the new operation. She said temporary clinics will be set up in camps housing the internally displaced and on routes used by returning refugees. Other planes brought in forklift trucks, water treatment equipment and small quantities of food.

"The operation is going on extremely well considering the conditions. What we have accomplished in 24 hours of operation is fantastic, phenomenal," said Captain Don Wilshire, one of the U.S. commanders. The airport, like the rest of Kigali which saw three months of fighting before the former rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized the city early last month, has no running water or main electricity.

Ghanaian troops who have been guarding the airport began moving out Monday for redeployment in southwest Rwanda to replace French troops who are planning to withdraw after setting up a "safety zone" for civilians there in June. The United States, which plans in coming weeks to deploy almost 3,000 men in Rwanda and Zaire, had 110 troops in Kigali Monday, with 250 Australians and 150 Canadians expected to join them.

Both the United Nations and the RPF-installed authorities meanwhile pursued efforts to have the Zaireans move up to 30,000 soldiers of the previous Hutu majority regime in Rwanda away from the refugees. The new regime accuses government troops and extremist Hutu militias of the genocide of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis, who form the bulk of the RPF, and Hutu moderates after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a suspected rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

Rwanda's new Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga late Sunday said that an international tribunal will be formed to try those accused of the massacres and a European Parliament delegation currently in Kigali has offered assistance in setting it up. In Seoul, the Health and Social Affairs Ministry said Monday South Korea is to send 100 million won (\$125,000) worth of medicines to alleviate cholera and starvation among Rwandan refugees.

The medicines, financed by the government reserve fund, are to include 750,000 oral rehydration sachets, dextrose and saline, said the ministry, adding that the supplies should arrive in Rwanda by mid-August. South Korea recently donated \$100,000 for Rwandan refugees in response to a plea by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

Japan will send a medical team to Rwanda to assist refugees there, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said Monday. Mr. Igarashi said at a news conference that a Japanese mission would leave Tuesday for the troubled African country to learn how a medical team should best operate in helping refugees. He said the team would be dispatched after the mission returned home from its week-long visit there.

Government sources said the medical team would not leave for Rwanda before the end of August. Meanwhile French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Sunday French troops might stay on in a safe zone for refugees in southwest Rwanda beyond the expiry of their U.N. mandate on Aug. 22 to avoid destabilisation. "We will not withdraw unless we have the feeling that the zone is safe and that it will remain safe after our departure," he told French television in the Zaire border town of Goma after touring the refugee disaster area by helicopter.

Earlier Mr. Balladur told reporters: "If we felt our action could make the situation more fragile and cause new unrest, a new exodus, that would certainly weigh upon our decision." However, he said that given the level of world concern about the Rwandan refugee crisis, he could not believe it would be impossible to find 2,000 soldiers to replace French troops who had played a protection role alone for the last two months. Mr. Balladur met French troops in Zaire and Rwanda, and visited a French military field hospital in the town of Cyangugu during his five-hour trip, but he did not go to the camps in which 50,000 refugees have died of cholera and exhaustion in the past two weeks.

The prime minister confirmed that France would leave logistics units in Goma on the Rwandan border, to help support an international relief operation for the refugees. Given the lead that France had taken in launching the Rwanda relief operation, it had no grounds to feel guilty about withdrawing now, he added. "France took its responsibility and you must trust it especially because our action was to end the troubles and ensure people return back," Mr. Balladur said at Goma Airport.

"Now you feel how hard our responsibility was." He added that France would do its best to help the Rwandan people after its pullout from the zone, where hundreds of thousands of members of the Hutu majority have taken refuge. The first 300 French troops out of 2,500 in the region returned home at the weekend, replaced by African units armed and transported by France.

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Bosnian Serbs want to reopen peace talks with major powers

PALE, Bosnia (R) — The Bosnian Serbs said Monday they wanted immediately to reopen peace negotiations with the major powers. A statement from the Bosnian Serb leadership said it wanted to reopen discussions on the territorial division of Bosnia outlined in a map which lies at the heart of the peace plan proposed by the "contact group" comprising the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade Sunday night to try to rescue the peace plan and he praised Mr. Milosevic for coming out in support of the deal over the weekend. Mr. Kozyrev said the peace plan benefited the Serbs, and he repeated international offers of a phased lifting of economic sanctions against rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — if they endorsed the deal.

"The moment there is a 'yes' to the plan, then sanctions will start being suspended," Mr. Kozyrev said on Belgrade Television early Monday. Mr. Kozyrev's visit took place after Mr. Milosevic, long-time patron of Bosnia's Serbs, for the first time publicly urged them to accept the peace plan. Mr. Milosevic told the Bosnian Serbs they had no right to reject peace and saddle Serbia and Montenegro with sanctions.

His comments followed a decision in Geneva Saturday by contact group foreign ministers to call for tighter sanctions against rump Yugoslavia in a bid to force the Bosnian Serbs to reconsider their position. As he left Belgrade, Mr. Kozyrev said he felt Mr. Milosevic could still sway the Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan. In an interview with ITAR-TASS news agency, Mr. Kozyrev said: "Milosevic must get them to adopt the contact group plan and we will get the sanctions lifted."

He added: "Great courage" will be required of Slobodan Milosevic now but I think that he... will find ways of making the Bosnian Serbs decide to adopt the plan in line with the interests of the entire Serbian people. But asked whether Belgrade might impose sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs should they continue to reject the plan, Mr. Kozyrev said: "Let's not decide that for the Serbs."

Monday's talks at Sarajevo Airport were expected to reveal whether the Serbs would remain defiant or bend to the growing international pressure for peace. "We're sure the talks will be illustrative of Serb attitudes in the wake of the contact group's decision. It's good to know they are going ahead at all as they were planned before the contact group met," a senior U.N. official said.

The United Nations hoped to restore a commercial route into Sarajevo opened in March after Serbs who had besieged the city for two years withdrew heavy weapons to avoid NATO air raids. It also wanted the two factions to salvage a previous deal to free an estimated 300 prisoners of war on each side. The third goal of the airport talks was to have both sides get rid of snipers who continue to shoot civilians in Sarajevo.

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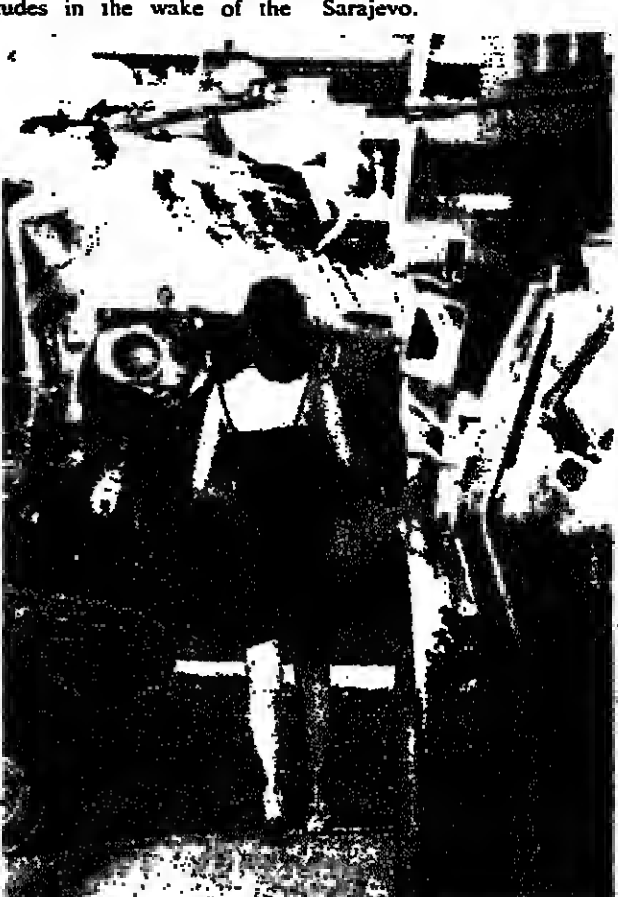
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A young woman in a summer dress makes her way through French armoured vehicles where weapons are trained on Serb sniper positions in Sarajevo. Sniping has increased considerably during recent weeks (AFP photo)

Berlusconi partners squabble day before debate

ROME (R) — Silvio Berlusconi's key coalition partners were at loggerheads Monday, a day before he was due to address parliament on a spat with magistrates and his plans to distance himself from his business empire. Gianfranco Fini, head of the neo-fascist-led National Alliance and the Northern League's Umberto Bossi argued openly in the media. Mr. Fini accused Mr. Bossi in a radio interview of effectively working against the coalition's interests by slandering Mr. Berlusconi's controversial plan to put his \$7 billion-a-year Fininvest company in the hands of a blind trust.

"It is obvious that the opposition will find some way to criticise what Berlusconi proposed but it is politically much more grave that Bossi, a coalition leader, concurs," Mr. Fini said. Mr. Bossi, who has been a political thorn in Mr. Berlusconi's side since he joined the media magnate's conservative government when it was formed on May 10, opened fire again over the weekend. He said Mr. Berlusconi's plan "just doesn't stand up" and that the league would propose its own plan whereby the tycoon's assets would be run by a special foundation for five years.

Mr. Fini accused Mr. Bossi, who has made it clear from the start he will not let the league play second-fiddle to Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party, of playing into the hands of the opposition through his continued open dissent. Pierferdinando Casini, head of the tiny Christian Democratic centre which has two seats in Mr. Berlusconi's cabinet, also said Mr. Bossi should mind his political manners. "A bit of criticism within the coalition is logical. But at some point this should stop and give way to responsibility for the common good of the country," said Mr. Casini, whose group split from the old scandal-tainted Christian Democrats this year.

Political commentators said that when he addresses parliament Tuesday night, they expected Mr. Berlusconi to try to put out brushfires caused by some of his recent moves. There will be no vote of confidence after the debate. Opposition leaders had demanded Mr. Berlusconi address parliament about an open spat he has had with corruption-hunting magistrates in Milan. The request was expanded to include an explanation of his plans to avoid conflict of interest.

Mr. Berlusconi said he would submit a bill under which President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and the speakers of parliament would appoint a committee to oversee Fininvest during his tenure. But Mr. Scalfaro denied his efforts, saying the constitution would probably prevent him from being its chief guarantor.

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Nigeria's labour unions set for general strike

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's powerful central labour organisation was mobilising Monday for a general strike on Wednesday to back the action begun by oil workers demanding the release of detained politician Meshod Abiola. "We are preparing for the strike. We are taking it very seriously," Adam Osiomhole, deputy president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) told Reuters. The oil workers unions NUPENG and PENGASAN said Sunday they would stay away from talks with the government scheduled for Monday to try to end their crippling strike, now in its fifth week.

The NLC said last Friday it was calling a general strike because its efforts to persuade the military government to free Mr. Abiola, the undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential election, and other political detainees had failed. Mr. Osiomhole said he expects the government may make overtures to the congress to try to persuade it to call off a strike which could bring Nigeria to a halt.

At this point it is not what they (government) say that it will matter but what they do," he said. The crisis over the annulment of the June 1993 poll by the previous military rulers deepened when Mr. Abiola, a wealthy businessman from the southwest, was arrested last month and charged with treason for proclaiming himself president. The oil strike has severely disrupted domestic fuel supplies, transport services and normal business.

It is biting into Nigeria's crude oil production, the mainstay of the economy, as oil companies find it more and more difficult to safely man installations amid harassment from striking workers. Most High Street banks in Lagos and other southwestern cities have been shut for more than three weeks due to a combination of a strike by their workers and management fears of a run on deposits because of the political crisis.

A cash shortage is hitting businesses and the ability of workers to cash their pay cheques. "If we are sure that the courts could solve the problem we would not have involved ourselves in the crisis," NLC's Osiomhole said. "Nigeria is facing a political problem, not a judicial one."

Mr. Abiola is due to appear again in a court in the inland capital Abuja Tuesday. The unions say it is unlikely that a court decision will end the impasse, especially since Mr. Abiola's lawyers have stopped demanding bail for the politician. "If we are sure that the courts could solve the problem we would not have involved ourselves in the crisis," NLC's Osiomhole said. "Nigeria is facing a political problem, not a judicial one."

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Chechnya refuses to negotiate with Russia — Dudayev

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — The breakaway Republic of Chechnya will not negotiate its status with the present Russian government, the defiant Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, said late Sunday. "There will be no agreement between (the present government in) Russia and Chechnya," Mr. Dudayev told AFP in his huge office located on the ninth floor of the government building in Chechnya's capital, Grozny. "Russia only talks a language of force, and negotiations only end in blackmail," he added.

Dressed in a grey-green suit and sporting his trademark mustache, Mr. Dudayev was in a humorous mood, if tense. "We are in favour of stable government rather than political experimentation which would threaten the economic recovery and risk destroying the confidence we benefit from abroad," he said. Mr. Verhugien had suggested in the weekly magazine Focus that a red-green-yellow coalition would be "the most likely, on the purely mathematical basis."

Mr. Dudayev said he was flown to New Delhi Sunday for medical treatment, began a "fast unto death" Friday to demand that the government withdraw security hunkers from around Hazratbal. He was hospitalised in New Delhi's prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Reporters were not allowed to meet the militant leader. Photographers who got a momentary glimpse of Mr. Malik as he was being wheeled into a private ward said he appeared delirious.

Paramilitary guards meanwhile patrolled this state summer capital and reinforced security to preempt violence following rumours that JKLF chief Yasin Malik's health was deteriorating after a three-day hunger strike, police said. Additional forces were deployed in Srinagar and police boats guarded a lake facing the holy Hazratbal shrine, as shops, schools and offices remained shut and traffic stayed off the roads.

Two policemen and eight civilians were injured when members of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) opened fire in a market to force shops that had opened to shut down, the Press Trust of India said.

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Earthly solutions first

HERE WE go again in Somalia, the country we all once thought had come to its senses and understood the importance of law and order after four years of starvation and bloodshed that killed nearly half a million people. Latest reports from the Horn of Africa country indicate a total breakdown of security, and chaos and the law of the gun returning to the streets. Third World countries which took upon themselves the task of maintaining some semblance of law and order to ensure food and relief reaching the starving hundreds of thousands of Somalis cannot wait to get out of the country. Big powers are busy elsewhere like Rwanda where the emergency is more pressing and the victims are responding positively to help. If anything, Washington would like to call off the entire United Nations operation in Somalia and save itself hundreds of millions of dollars. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the one relief agency which has the reputation of staying on in areas of conflict despite the worst of conditions, has closed its offices and left. Only two or three non-governmental agencies maintain a skeleton presence in the country.

The tribal warlords of Somalia are at each other's throat again, with little regard to the then comforting national reconciliation agreement they signed in March. The so-called technical gun-wagons are back terrorising the people. Gunmen are slowly creeping on the Mogadishu airport and its environs, established as a safe area at the outset of the ill-fated American-led attempt launched in December 1992 to rescue the Somalis from the claws of death from starvation.

The net picture that emerges from Somalia is horrifying, to say the least. There is little doubt that a disaster of a larger magnitude than was ever anticipated would unfold in Somalia if the situation continues unchecked, prompting an exodus of Third World peacekeepers from the country, ending whatever little signs of security are left amid the warlords' quest for supremacy of a land which can boast of virtually nothing but two million plus hapless people.

The biggest fear is for those who have returned to their villages under the security umbrella provided by the international peacekeepers. After a hiatus of more than five years, they have started work on their internationally-funded farmlands, which are now slowly showing the fruits of their labour. Indeed, enough local agriculture output to meet the minimum food needs of the country is years away, but the seeds of hope have been sown in the countryside. But if those farmers are also terrorised into fleeing their land, then there will be no hope left at all of normalcy returning to the country for many years to come.

Needless to say it is a quagmire. The U.S. tried its mighty firepower to bring the unruly tribal chieftains to heed the voice of reason and failed. The Third World countries whose armed forces inherited the bitter American legacy have had no success either.

The biggest question is: What can be done now? Leave the land and its people to the destiny designed by bloodthirsty, power-hungry clan leaders?

We don't claim to have any answers either except that those who seek out the secrets of Jupiter and Mars millions of kilometres away should have enough ability left on the Earth to ferret out the key to unlocking a logjam only a few thousand kilometres from their shores.

THE CLOSER the Arabs are towards solving their problem with Israel the farther away they move from one another while the general atmosphere in the Arab World remains as poisoned as ever, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Monday. Instead of exchanging mutual respect and showing at least the minimum level of solidarity among their states, the Arabs are drifting further apart as feelings of suspicion and mistrust against one another linger on, said the writer. The general feeling of mistrust and suspicion can never be conducive to success for the Arab causes, added the writer. He said that some Arab states do not hesitate to take hostile actions against others while they shun any effort to stop Israel from causing sufferings to their kinsmen, continued Mr. Rimawi. What is required at this crucial stage, said the writer, is not a collective suicide on the part of the Arab Nation, but a real effort to close Arab ranks and bring about renewed solidarity that can ensure Arab rights and interests.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TAHER Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, Monday criticised the lack of a proper system in Jordan for conducting serious dialogues over serious matters like the peace process. The voice of the opposition is not heard enough and the official media are offering time and space to the proponents of peace with Israel without giving a chance to those who hold opposing ideas, said the writer. The present stage should witness a serious dialogue and open discussions which should be presented to the public through the media, especially television, so that the Jordanian people can reach the right decision about the peace with Israel, he added. We are in dire need for analytical discussion of the peace process and a real public opinion poll measuring the rate of support for the current line of peace endeavours, said the writer. He said that surprising a passer-by in the street with the question of whether he or she supports the peace process does not reflect the right view of the Jordanian public with regard to the peace process. He said that the government should open the way for public meetings where people from different walks of life can express their real opinion about this important issue.

The View from Fourth Circle

Islam and West — partners or protagonists?

By Rami G. Khouri

FRANKFURT, GERMANY — The recent series of attack against Jewish targets in Argentina, London and elsewhere has revived fears in the West, especially in the United States of a fresh wave of "Islamic terror", with most fingers pointing at Iran as the primary instigator of the latest violence. The public debate here in western Europe, as in most of the West, tilts between identifying individual countries or groups who may be behind the violence, and a wholesale, rather racist branding of "Islam" itself as the problem.

A thoughtful article about this point earlier this week in the Washington Post, by columnist Stephen Rosenfeld, notes correctly that at this delicate historical juncture the West has not yet formulated a coherent policy towards the Islamic realm: some on the left see Islamic self-assertion and occasional violence as stemming from man-made socio-economic inequities and political disenfranchisement that can be treated and accommodated through more vigorous and intelligent policies, both in the Islamic World and in the West. Others on the right find it politically convenient to identify Islamic culture itself as emotional, violent and inherently an enemy of western secularism, and these people wish to devise appropriate policies of containment and pressure — using violence if necessary.

The view from within the Islamic World suggests that the former analysis is more accurate — that extremism, the politicisation of religion, and occasional acts of violence are the troubling but logical consequence of societies that have suffered badly and repeatedly from autocratic political distortion and severe socio-economic disparities. Furthermore, a deeper look into Islamic societies shows a widespread process of change under way, by which the Arab/Islamic people themselves are trying to address their basic problems: Autocratic political systems, and deteriorating natural resource bases and badly distorted economies that are unable to keep up with the rapid population growth, resulting in frustration, anger and despair among hundreds of millions of Muslims.

Along with these negative trends, however, the Arab/Islamic region has also experienced positive trends in education and social services, infrastructure, the birth and development of civil society structures (courts, professional societies, special interest groups, insurance and social security systems), more pragmatism in national political policies and, in many countries, a rising sense of accountability by those who wield power, resulting in various degrees of liberalisation and democratisation. The obvious desire for change in the Arab/Islamic World is also seen in underground political activism, activism by professional societies, public protests, privately circulated petitions and manifestos, daring press articles and public statements in the region and abroad, Islamist, tribal and leftist/nationalist challenges to existing regimes, greater demands to respect human rights, the formation of hundreds of political parties, the birth of consultative councils, the reactivation of dormant parliaments, the holding of parliamentary elections, the birth of scores of new political periodicals and many other signs.

As a whole, the Arab/Islamic World today is characterised

by several trends: economic adjustment, more effective private enterprise, activism by NGOs and community groups, more rational public-private sector partnerships, decentralisation of political and economic power, the politics of religion, ethnicity and tribalism as counterpoints to the inability of modern states to meet people's material and identity needs, the increasing strength of commercialism as a driving force in society as free market forces and regional and international private capital take over the responsibility of provision of basic services from some government agencies, regional cooperation and integration and the desire for more mutually beneficial relations with foreign powers.

The fact is, a fundamental redistribution of domestic and regional power is under way among the basic constituent groups of Arab/Islamic society: The ruling political elites, the military, the Muslim religious establishment, commercial powers, professionals and technocrats, and religious/ethnic minorities.

The impending end of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the domestic political dynamism that is already evident throughout the Arab World may be seen historically as a delayed quest for the sort Arabs were denied in the 1920s, when the modern Arab political order was born at the hands of imperial-minded European midwives. Many in the Arab World are conscious that we face the danger of repeating the mistakes of 1920 by copying western models, parroting western words and concepts, and thereby generally allowing ourselves to remain effectively as dependencies of western political, intellectual, social and commercial forces. While democratisation of our political culture is a vital goal, a parallel danger is to adopt western-style democracy in an uncritical manner, as we copied western models of statehood in the 1920s.

The modern, imported political structures that dot the Arab World and that should logically enrich and define the drive for coherent nationhood and responsive governance — especially parliaments, the press and political parties — are precisely the institutions that seem to be least credible today in Arab society. At the same time, highest in credibility are the forces of tribalism, Arabism, Islam and patriarchal or monarchical expressions of the traditional hierarchical, communal, protective forms of political governance and social organisation. In such a context, democracy is not so much a goal in itself; rather, it may be the institutional means by which the predominant attributes of Arab/Islamic society — tribalism, Islam, Arabism, the modern state and commercialism — can find the appropriate and stable balance among themselves, which could lead to national productivity and regional stability and progress.

The new factor in the Arab region is the emergency of the young, fragile, but real desire for more modern, liberal and egalitarian political structures that respect — but also transcend — our tribal/Arab/Islamic identity. This is evident in the attitudes and political platforms of many throughout the Arab World who emphasise issues such as the importance of institutional state structures, accountability, human rights, legal protections, pluralism, an independent judiciary and other such issues.

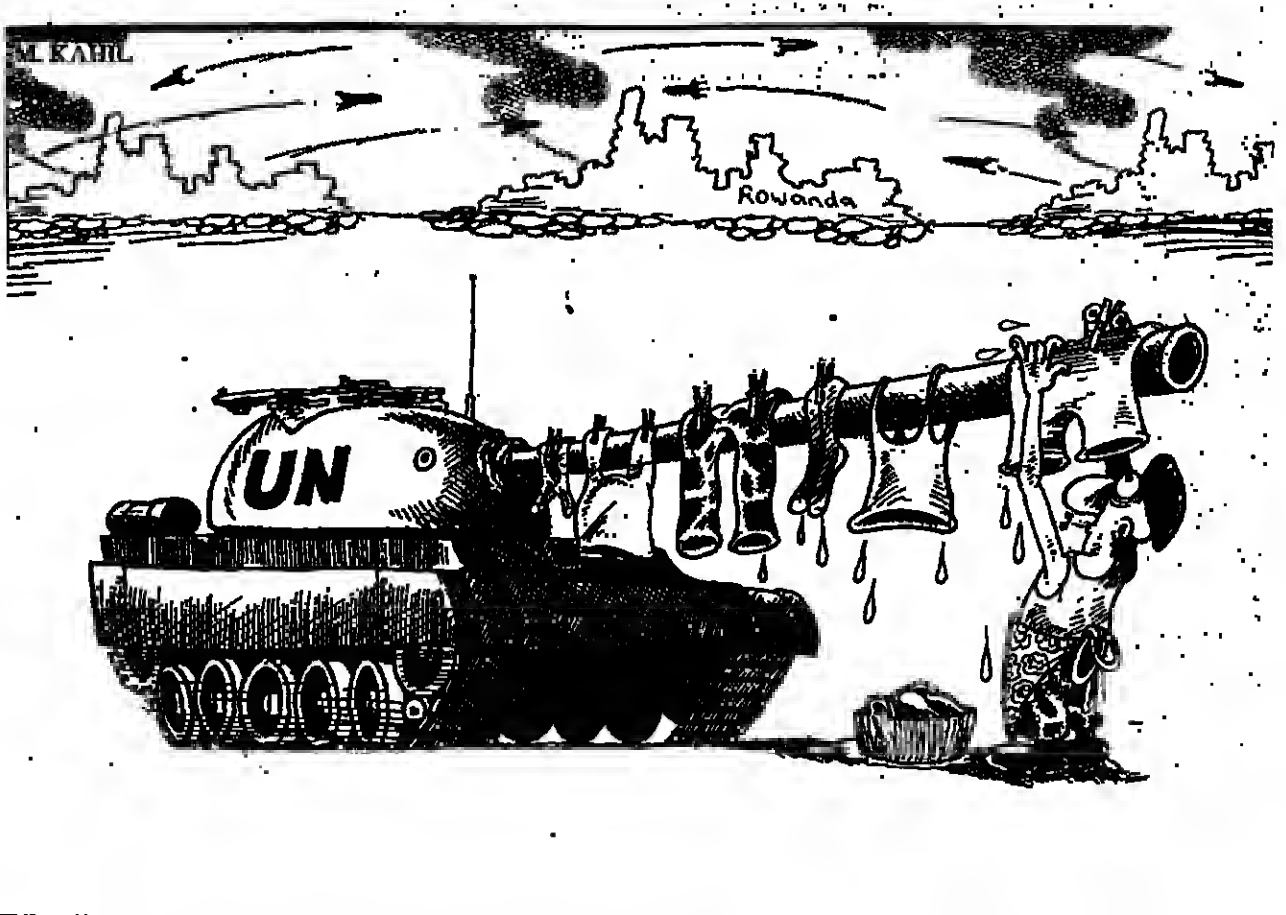
It is also important to recognise that the three most important defining attributes of modern Arab political culture — tribalism, Arabism and Islam — are explicitly transnational in nature. Usually, they openly and unapologetically challenge the existing state borders drawn by the fading European imperial powers around 1920. It is no accident that Islam, Arabism and tribalism should emerge as powerful expressions of Arab identity today, because the last two contemporary Arab attributes — state identity and commercialism — appear to be failing the needs and aspirations of the vast majority of Arabs.

This reinforces the argument that Arab political transformation and democratisation cannot occur in a historical void; they must also address the status, condition and viability of the existing Arab state system within which we ponder the prospects for democratic transformation (in the same way that political transformation in the former Soviet Union takes place in many new states that did not exist between the second and fourth quarters of this century).

As our region changes, we can already see a synthesis of Middle Eastern and western traditions taking place in many Arab/Islamic countries; for example, the birth and increasing power of human rights organisations, the successes of movements fighting for more egalitarian women's rights, the rapid expansion of NGOs and the effectiveness of environmental protection societies. Many of these efforts are not being as well, because they tend to work within prevailing cultural traditions and social sensitivities. They bring together principles that were generally born and developed in the West with procedures and goals that are defined predominantly by indigenous Arabs and therefore they enjoy both credibility and success.

The West should recognise two important points as it assesses the Islamic realm and ponders whether Islam is a partner or an enemy: a) political transformation, modernisation and, to some extent, democratisation are well under way in the Arab/Islamic World, and b) if they are to bear fruit and last, they must be undertaken by Arabs and Muslims themselves, and not by western well-wishers. If there are pent-up reserves of anger that must dissipate slowly over time, as we see happening in Iran and Sudan, then this, too, should be accepted as an inevitable, but ultimately healthy, segment of the history of the Middle East.

Instant statehood and republicanism did not work very well in the Middle East when they were imposed by Europeans in the 1920s; instant democracy and civil society will not work any better if they are artificially injected into the Middle Eastern body politic by well-meaning western politicians in the 1990s. To miss this glaring reality would be a double tragedy: it would shortchange the chances of successful Arab/Islamic political modernisation and democratisation, and it would increase the prospects of tilting the current western debate about the nature of Islamic activism towards the view of Islam as a danger that has to be checked, rather than as a moral compatriot that should be engaged in a mutually beneficial global partnership.



Major-power weakness seen in Bosnia

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

GENEVA — The United States, Russia and their key European allies have maintained a veneer of unity against Bosnia's stubborn Serbs in the struggle to bring peace to the former Yugoslav republic. But differences among them on the Bosnian problem showed through yet again, underlining their weakness in trying to end the 27-month Balkan war.

The major powers had threatened penalties against the Serbs for rejecting the peace plan they authored. But when push came to shove, they opted for more process and effectively decided to give the Serbs, who have thumbed their noses at the international community from the beginning, yet another chance.

U.S., Russian, British, French and German foreign ministers met in Geneva on Saturday for what many saw as crucial talks to plot the next steps in persuading the Serbs to join Muslims and Croats in accepting the peace plan.

But their communique

barely papered over differences on lifting the arms embargo in favour of Bosnia's Muslims and authorising NATO air strikes against Serbs — arguably the most compelling weapons in their diplomatic arsenal.

Analysts said more muscular action would increase the risk of drawing the Americans and the Europeans into a war in which they have no intention of getting involved.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who had tried and failed to exploit Slavic ties to persuade Serbs to follow the lead of the Muslims and Croats, complained before the meeting that he had been betrayed by the Serbs.

Still he pressed his U.S. and European counterparts on Saturday to give them another chance.

He told reporters later he felt the Serbs ultimately must succumb to the pressure of sanctions and international approbation "because there is no way for them otherwise."

The Serbs showed little evidence of being influenced by the ministers in the run up to the Geneva meeting: They attacked a

U.N. convoy, killing a British peacekeeper, and blocked roads to Sarajevo. There was little to suggest they would change now.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd of Britain, which has a large peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia, said there were limits to what the United States, Europe and Russia could do.

"We don't have the power to impose a solution," Mr. Hurd told a news conference after the meeting. "We must therefore continue to work for one, applying the pressures at our disposal."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the powers faced "a difficult, intractable problem." He added: "There are no magic solutions... but it might yield to steady pressure."

In trying to finally influence the Serbs, the powers turned to existing, not new, punishments.

The ministers conceded that a more than two-year-old regime of sanctions against ramp Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — over its support for the Bosnian Serbs was crumbling. They agreed to ask the

U.N. Security Council to extend these sanctions and tighten enforcement, deciding to propose a draft resolution in this regard within the next week.

But there was no commitment made as to when the sanctions might actually be tightened — a clear reflection of Russian reluctance to go on punishing Belgrade, where Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic has voiced support for the peace plan.

Although the United Nations and NATO had worked on such issues for months, the ministers also asked for new plans to be drawn to extend and strictly enforce exclusion zones in Bosnia, again with no target date for implementation.

The one area where the ministers made a commitment was with a carrot. They promised the Serbs that if they accepted the plan, they would immediately submit a resolution to the United Nations on suspending economic sanctions against Belgrade.

"The nature of this process is to get a 'yes' from the Serbs, not punishment for punishment's sake," said a senior U.S. official.

Stalled Irish peace moves may bring fresh violence

By Caroline Brothers
Reuters

BELFAST — Now the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing has effectively thrown out a plan widely seen as the best chance for peace in years, politicians are wondering if Northern Ireland is heading for a new cycle of violence.

At a meeting in the northwest of the Irish republic, hundreds of delegates from Sinn Fein dealt a body blow to an Anglo-Irish plan to end 25 years of political and sectarian strife in the British-ruled province.

Their rejection in all but spirit of the so-called Downing Street Declaration, that promised Sinn Fein a place at talks on the province's future if the IRA halted its campaign, was greeted with dismay in Belfast, London and Dublin.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said the declaration, which the meeting dubbed negative and contradictory, did not offer the IRA enough to give up its battle to unify Ireland.

"Those who are engaged in the armed struggle are not persuaded," he told reporters recently.

Sinn Fein did not need to accept the declaration to join peace talks, but Britain and Ireland insist they will only let them in to the political process after a permanent end to IRA violence.

Commentators and politicians expressed fears last week that the cycle of killings in Northern Ireland would resume.

"This will obviously mean continued terrorist violence both by the IRA and the loyalist murder gangs carrying out tit for tat killings," said British David Winnick, head of an Anglo-Irish parliamentary liaison body.

"The motions passed (last week) leave open the prospect of an indefinite continuation of the IRA's military campaign, a very depressing scenario," an Irish Times editorial said.

In 25 years, 3,000 people have died and 36,000 have been injured in the struggle involving the IRA, fighting to end British rule in the province. Protestant ex-

remists battling to keep it, and security forces trying to combat the guerrillas.

Hours after the meeting ended, a British soldier was seriously injured in a guerrilla attack.

In Belfast, where people were reluctant to hope for too much, disappointment after the meeting was palpable.

"Talk of peace in a week was never realistic, but now longer term hope that the document could deliver an end to republican terror has evaporated," the Belfast Telegraph said.

The rejection has left a question mark over the way forward.

Talks between British Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart Albert Reynolds appear to have stalled over constitutional issues involved in resolving the conflict, but they have pledged to press on with or without Sinn Fein.

The two are likely to thrash out a new framework document as a basis for discussions between northern Ireland's mainstream parties before the leaders meet later this year.

But they will have an uphill struggle to get the parties round a table to discuss ways to revive some form of local power-sharing in the province which has been ruled directly from London since the early 1970s.

In Dublin, Mr. Reynolds said the onus was on extremist groups to stop the bloodshed. "Sinn Fein and other paramilitaries have a responsibility to stop the killing now," he said.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said the "no" had left Sinn Fein in a political wasteland.

"They are isolated in a sense and a degree that they have never been before," he said.

In an attempt at damage limitation after a welter of negative media reports, Mr. Adams insisted the peace process was still alive and the next step was up to Britain.

Sinn Fein wants London to remove a key plank of the plan which gives the province's Protestant majority a veto over political change.

Features

Free or rigged elections?

Gazans wonder

By Samia Nakhouli

Reuter

GAZA — Once their joy at the return of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat subsides, Gazans will be looking forward to something they have never experienced in their lives — electing their own leaders.

Now that Mr. Arafat has settled at home, people's aspirations are shifting to another prospect — a free and dignified political life that will erase the scars of years of exile, oppression, and occupation by Israel since 1967.

Despite the anticipation, some Palestinians are wondering in private if the voting will really be free and fair or a replica of the elections held in many Arab states.

In the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, all political groups are trying to gauge the share of the vote they would win and whether they have the people's support or not.

The Muslim movement Hamas says it represents 45 per cent of the people in Gaza. Mr. Arafat's mainstream PLO group Fatah speaks of 80 per cent — and scores of other groups also stake a claim.

Palestinians say only free elections can determine the true weight of each faction.

But so far the election law has not been formulated and preparations for the campaign have not started. PLO officials expect the elections to be held by the end of October.

The question of timing has haunted the PLO leadership since its return to the Gaza Strip last month but much depends on how fast they can negotiate the arrangements with the Israelis.

PLO official Nahil Shaath, asked when they would happen, adopted a saying attributed to the Prophet Muhammad — "work for this world as if you are going to live forever and for the next world as if you are going to die tomorrow."

"Work for elections as if they are going to happen tomorrow but for negotiations as if they are going to go on forever," Dr. Shaath said.

Mr. Arafat's aides believe the 64-year-old leader has every reason to hold the elections during his honeymoon period.

"His homecoming triggered clear, popular and

massive support that leaves no doubt as to his popularity. The game is over for all those who doubted, opposed or benefited from this cynicism — enemies, opponents, outsiders and insiders... he has the popular support needed to achieve results, Dr. Shaath said.

Mr. Arafat's return was part of the experiment in limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, which if successful could lead to a Palestinian state in all the land occupied by Israel in 1967.

PLO-Israeli talks on autonomy in the rest of the West Bank began in Cairo last week, with the elections one of the events looming on the horizon, after another Israeli redeployment.

The elections were originally to take place this month but the timetable is running months behind schedule.

Many Palestinians fear Mr. Arafat will use the same autocratic methods in Gaza and Jericho as he has in the PLO for the past 25 years. Even his supporters hope he will change his style. Otherwise, they say, he will end up losing.

They see the democratic option as the only common ground for exiled Palestinians, returning with different ideologies and cultures from various parts of the world.

"The elections are the safety valve for the Palestinian people. They are as important as the peace agreement. They are a national demand that symbolises the desire of the Palestinians. This need must be fulfilled," said Fatah member Tawfik Khosa.

"We need a certain model to organise the relationship between all the Palestinians. All this must be run according to a certain criteria — the democratic one."

While opponents believe Mr. Arafat will just buy people's loyalty, others say his success depends on his ability to raise funds for them, improve their living standards and rebuild the infrastructure of the self-rule areas.

"So far a piece of bread is more important than politics for people. A good livelihood plays a role in determining whether the citizen is with you or against you. This defines his political line," Mr. Khosa added.



Tutsi refugees, who are protected by French troops from fighting and massacres, wait for humanitarian aid in the western Rwandan village of Rwigipiri, north of Kibuye (AFP photo)

Rwanda's catastrophe — more to come

By Peter Smerdon

Reuter

KIBUMBA, Zaire — The Rwandan catastrophe stunned the world and overwhelmed its relief agencies. Aid officials say more vast horrors are sure to follow.

"Could it happen again on an even larger scale than this monstrosity?" asks a senior official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). "Why not?" he answers himself. "Shame on all of us who proved in Rwanda unwilling to stop country killing itself before our eyes."

"People may say they blame Rwanda... but we, the so-called powerful West, were responsible for Rwanda and will continue to be. If we ignore it, evil will spread until it knocks on our doors."

Stand in Kibumba camp, 25 km north of Zairean

border town of Goma, and watch the price for 250,000 refugees struggling to live among the dead.

The foul-smelling corpses of men, women and children lie where they fall, metres from the living, who are cooking, vomiting and excreting around small camp fires on every patch of dirt.

In a line of bodies piled up to four deep 100 metres from the camp perimeter, lies a young woman who was giving birth when she died. The child perished as well. The woman is holding a hand of a dead man, apparently her husband.

Three U.N. High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) workers, a Swiss, a Dutch and a Swede, are almost in tears after two days trying to organise the digging of a mass grave through volcanic rock.

Kibumba is considered the worst camp for cholera but aid workers say the death rate among the 1.7 million refugees in eastern Zaire has levelled out at 1,800 each day and may soon start to fall.

They expect growing numbers of refugees to return to Rwanda in coming weeks. But a hard core of Rwandans are bound to stay, fearing reprisals because they or their close relatives took part in the tribal slaughter.

"There will be permanent refugee camps here," says UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson. "Another little bit of people on the forgotten map of Africa like the others — Sudan, Mozambique and Malawi."

"We've already run out of money for this operation," he said. "We are begging. We've been saying since it broke out this is ton

big. The scale of this was so unprecedented who could handle it?"

He described refugees as "the growth industry of the 90s" with UNHCR responsible worldwide for 21 million people outside their homelands and 25 million internally displaced, compared with a total of two million in the 70s.

"In the long-term there is no good solution to any of this except to have a standing army of aid workers ready to intervene for each emergency bigger than the last," he added.

"But suppose we set up a UNHCR twice its present size, a disaster three times the size will only come along. I don't think the international community is ready to fund that."

Even for Rwandans who escape cholera and go back to their ravaged homes, the

ordeal appears far from over.

The victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), dominated by Rwanda's Tutsi minority of 14 per cent, now holds power in the capital Kigali, ruling a largely Hutu majority.

"Even in the best scenario it must take generations to end the ethnic hatred behind this," said a U.S. diplomat. "And Rwanda's record of massacres since 1959 leaves little room for hope."

In 1959 the Hutus overthrew their traditional Tutsi overlords, beginning a long series of tribal bloodbaths.

"Of course Rwanda will be a basket case for years. How can it possibly recover? It's a country that has been raped and denuded. Why should it change for the better? History says it won't," said a U.N. official,

who declined to be identified.

"We harbour massive worries that the same will happen in Rwanda again... in five years, in six years. I don't think we can look so far ahead, or that the world will be prepared for it."

"But what can we do? We have to either send the refugees home and run the risk of it happening again or keep them as permanent refugees... so we will send as many home as we can."

The aid officials said Western powers which fund the U.N. system responded slowly to the Rwanda crisis because of recent failures in Somalia, former Yugoslavia and Haiti.

But they added that despite Africa's capacity for producing refugees, most African states had an admirable record of giving asylum to the displaced.

Regent urges against pulp politics

(Continued from page 1)

the common good. He also expressed hope that dialogues would continue in order to safeguard national unity.

The meeting convened at Baghdad Palace upon the request of acting Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Razzak Tubekhat, focused on a number of important issues, including parliament members' sermons in mosques dealing with the Washington Declaration and the summit His Majesty King Hussein held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as well as U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Islamic deputies presented the views of the Islamic movement concerning the Washington meeting, stressing that being in the opposition their views were constructive, aiming to serve the nation and abiding by the Constitution.

They said that the Islamic movement was an "integral part of the Jordanian homeland striving to protect and defend it and will not exceed constitutional limits." This movement is totally committed to national principled stands that seek to enhance Jordan's status, they said.

The Islamic deputies criticised the government, de-

Regent urges against pulp politics

(Continued from page 1)

manding that the government should define its position with regard to the Islamic movement and that the government should maintain dialogue with them.

They demanded that the government consider the Islamic movement's actions as undertaken in good faith and that the government should consider the Islamic deputies as representatives of the nation in line with King Hussein's policy of respecting various views, abiding by the Constitution and serving national interests.

Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad cited some excesses on the part of the Islamists which were considered as violating the norms.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abhadi addressed the meeting demanding that all parties adhere to Islamic principles and values which require that the mosque pulpits serve as a platform for propagating affection and solidarity and not a source for dissent and slander.

Justice Minister Hisham Al Tal stressed the independence of the judiciary and underlined the sovereignty of the law. After presenting their views, the deputies and ministers were received by the Regent, who made his comments on their demands.

Civil power transfer draft ready

(Continued from page 12)

the West Bank." He said by next week talks would begin on elections in the West Bank and Gaza as stipulated in the Israel-PLO peace accord.

Palestinians have argued such elections would require an Israeli army pullback in the West Bank — which Israel says is problematic because of the need to protect more than 100,000 Jewish settlers in the area.

Dr. Shaath, who was to

Civil power transfer draft ready

(Continued from page 12)

travel to Cairo Monday night to head the Palestinian delegation, said elections could be held by the end of the year.

Both Mr. Shahal and Dr. Shaath, whose top PLO position would have qualified him for arrest here before last September's accord, said they were pleased with the meeting.

Dr. Shaath said he was

Rabin sees Syrian wish for peace

(Continued from page 1)

East tour this month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Syria and Lebanon, where Damascus is the main foreign power broker, have lagged behind Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in conducting peace talks with Israel which opened in Madrid in 1991.

After the hour-long meeting with Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Rabin urged Syria to make a

Rabin sees Syrian wish for peace

(Continued from page 1)

"gesture" to convince the Israeli people of its desire for peace.

He gave as an example the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem in 1977, which paved the way for the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of 1979.

Syria said Monday it was up to Israel to make the first move and has criticised Jordan and the PLO for undermining the Arab position by striking "separate" deals with Israel.

Arafat wants talks on Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

Israel has indicated it will wait the full period, which would schedule final status talks beginning May 1996.

Israel's Police Minister Moshe Shahal rejected the idea of talks on Jerusalem now.

"There is agreement that the issue is not discussed at this stage, it will be raised in the future negotiations on the permanent solution," Mr. Shahal said.

He added that "Jerusalem is under Israeli sovereignty and united. It had been so for 27 years and will remain so in the future."

"Jerusalem from our point of view is the capital of our independent Palestinian state," Mr. Arafat said.

Israeli and PLO negotiators met in Jerusalem for the first time on Monday, officials on both sides said.

On the record, officials denied any significance to the venue for meetings of four joint sub-committees on economic cooperation.

But Palestinian sources hailed the move as an Israeli admission that the status of the city was still to be determined.

"This means that Israel has accepted the debate that the status is still to be negotiated," said one Palestinian source who declined to be

Arafat wants talks on Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

identified. During the meeting Israel gave the green light Monday for Palestinian agricultural products to be shipped to Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in line with autonomy, officials said.

Palestinian farmers will start shipping produce to Israel on Tuesday, but there will be quotas for eggs, chicken, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes and melons.

An economic agreement signed on April 29 in Paris stipulated the free entry of most Palestinian agricultural goods into Israel, as part of self-rule launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho less than a week later.

Israeli farmers are to be compensated to the tune of \$50 million over four years for the change in policy, an agricultural ministry spokesman said.

The director general of the ministry, Yohanan Bachi, and his counterpart in the Palestinian self-rule authority, Mohammad Rai, met at the Notre Dame Hotel opposite the Old City to finalise the agreement, the spokesman said.

Agriculture revenues represent about 33 per cent of the gross national product of the West Bank and around 25 per cent of that of the Gaza Strip, according to the Bank.

Brotherhood insists on politics

(Continued from page 1)

with Israel) falls, the popular front will be solid in its opposition to all forms of normalisation.

Mr. Thneibat said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, asserted "our role in political opposition," during a meeting that Prince Hassan called with the leadership of the Brotherhood to congratulate them "on the confidence of the brothers" in the elections for the movement's shura council last month.

Addressing the reference to Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration, Mr. Thneibat rejected the separation between religious and political sovereignty over Jerusalem because accepting the Israeli recognition "of (Muslim) religious and not political sovereignty over Jerusalem amounts to giving up" the Holy City.

He said the Brotherhood

Brotherhood insists on politics

(Continued from page 1)

considers accepting only religious sovereignty over Jerusalem "which is as sacred as Jaffa and Haifa" amounts to recognition of the legitimacy of the Jews.

Referring to the controversy between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over the Holy City, Mr. Thneibat said "Jerusalem has always been a unifying factor for Muslims and we will not accept that it becomes a reason for conflict."

Mr. Thneibat said the Brotherhood welcomes a plebiscite on the peace process if it will be fair and free. But he added that such a plebiscite should have been carried out before the start of negotiations with Israel.

Asserting that the movement is concerned with national unity and the well-being of the Kingdom, the Brotherhood leader said his movement was worried about the "undemocratic practices" of the government.

Cairo meeting drafts 'code of conduct'

(Continued from page 1)

for final approval to a higher environmental committee which will meet in October in Bahrain, she added.

Delegates said the environmental talks were aimed at building confidence between the Arab and Israeli parties, by demonstrating that environmental problems transcend political differences and borders.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting all multilateral talks, insisting progress in their bilateral talks with Israel must come first. But most other Arab states, including Jordan, and Gulf and north African countries, are taking part.

The draft code of conduct said countries must strive for conservation of natural resources and economic development must be in har-

Cairo meeting drafts 'code of conduct'

(Continued from page 1)

mony with environmental concerns. It also highlighted the need for technological cooperation in the region, where water shortages are a major problem.

The meeting was chaired by Japan. Japanese delegate Tachinori Shigeie told Reuters the delegates decided on guiding principles for domestic policies and regional cooperation.

"We are not working on legally binding things, given the general situation in the Middle East, but we made very good progress," Mr. Shigeie said.

He said recent moves toward peace, including Israel's agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan, had given an impetus to the two-day meeting.

Romanovs dream again of the throne of Russia

By Lynley Browning

Reuter

ST. PETERSBURG — Russian Communists crushed the house of Romanov in 1918, slaughtering the imperial family in a cellar, but their descendants dream still of a return to the throne.

It will not be by force — "impossible, too ugly," says Prince Andrei Romanov, the 71-year-old great nephew of the last Tsar Nicholas II.

Nor will it be soon. "The time is not yet ripe," adds Prince Dmitry, 68, great grandson of Nicholas I, who ruled Russia from 1825 to 1855.

There are other complications too, such as precisely which prince would sit on the Russian throne.

"It must be decided with a vote by the Russian people," said Prince Dmitry, chairman of the Copenhagen-based Romanov Fund for Russia.

Muted hints that Romanov descendants long for the dynasty to lead Russia once more emerged during the ceremony this month at the Hermitage Museum, the tsar's former winter palace, to mark an exhibition "Nicholas and Alexandra: the Court of the Last Russian Emperors."

Four Romanov princes attended the event and as they examined the 600 paintings and objets d'art from the last tsar's collection, they pondered the past and hinted about the future.

"Russians want to catch up with their history," said Prince Andrei. "They need to know that Yekaterinburg did not end everything," he added, referring to the killing of the royal family in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg on the orders of the Bolshe-

viks.

Portraits and scenes of the royal court showed a happy, privileged life before the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, snuffed out the 400-year-old dynasty and ushered in the Communist era.

A handful of Romanovs escaped as revolution and civil war swept Russia. None of those who stayed survived.

Today, their descendants, who prefer the French spelling of their name, Romanoff, are spread out from Australia to Europe.

Some are staking their claim to a crown that no longer exists.

Maria Vladimirovna, the daughter of Russia's last rightful heir to the throne, calls herself the grand princess and claims her son, Georgy, is crown prince.

"Nonsense," said Sergei Medvedev of the St. Petersburg-based Noble Federation, a nationwide organisation uniting former Russian nobles. "Her son's father is a Hohenzollern" — a member of the German dynastic family which ruled in Brandenburg-Prussia from 1415 until 1918.

Added Prince Dmitry: "She's a Romanov all right but is not the head of the family."

In Russia, squabbles over the succession are nothing new.

Twenty-seven pretenders tried to assume the Moscow throne in the 17th and 18th centuries.

"Beware of false Romanovs," warned Prince Nicholas, the current head of the dynasty.

Princes without a throne, rebels without a cause — the Romanovs are happy the former imperial capital of St. Petersburg is rediscovering its aristocratic heritage.

UAE enforces 4% tariff in all seven emirates

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is trying to harmonise rules within the seven-member federation to prepare for a possible Arab Gulf common market, Monday began levying a four per cent tariff on most imports, customs officials said.

"The good thing is that this offers unified guidelines for consumers and importers," Chaid Bassi, president of the Higher Council of Tariffs, told Reuters.

The duties will be imposed by all seven emirates. "Before the rules took effect, customs departments throughout the UAE were charging different tariffs and even levying some imports which were taxable in other emirates of the federation set up 25 years ago."

Mr. Bassi said tobacco imports which already attract a 50 per cent government tax, will now have to pay the same 50 per cent customs duty. The tobacco tariff will be 50 per cent.

The tobacco tariff will be 50 per cent. "The good thing is that this offers unified guidelines for consumers and importers," Chaid Bassi, president of the Higher Council of Tariffs, told Reuters.

The duties will be imposed by all seven emirates. "Before the rules took effect, customs departments throughout the UAE were charging different tariffs and even levying some imports which were taxable in other emirates of the federation set up 25 years ago."

Mr. Bassi said tobacco imports which already attract a 50 per cent government tax, will now have to pay the same 50 per cent customs duty. The tobacco tariff will be 50 per cent.

Nigeria abolishes duties on exports

ABUJA (R) — Nigeria said it had abolished duties on exports as part of the review of its 1994 economic policy.

The move, according to Finance Minister Kalu Idika, was part of a policy to encourage exports and stimulate economic growth.

The Nigerian naira currency would remain fixed at 20 to the dollar.

The measure has been widely welcomed by the business community for the sharp reduction in foreign exchange earnings from the non-oil sector.

Beirut Stock Exchange needs transparency law

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon must quickly prepare a new law on company transparency before the Beirut Stock Exchange can reopen after an 11-year gap, the chairman of the Lebanese Stockbrokers' Association said.

"We know that without transparency foreign people will not trust the stock exchange here," Nabil Aoun told Reuters after his nomination to the new stock exchange committee appointed on July 21 to reopen the market.

Mr. Aoun said no Lebanese company has good transparency. Even the \$1.8 billion Solidere Company set up to rebuild central Beirut, whose shares are traded on a separate Beirut secondary market, has not yet published a balance sheet.

"Good transparency means a balance sheet every month and all shareholders can go and look at the books. For the moment Lebanese law does not require any transparency," Mr. Aoun said.

He said lawyers have begun studies for a transparency law and he believed the exchange could reopen under new rules in 40 or 60 days, trading 10 of the 40 stocks listed before it closed in 1983.

A number of new issues were also waiting in the pipeline. Mr. Aoun said legal requirements for the market could be met very quickly.

Internal regulations will be prepared by the committee, which holds its first formal meeting this week, and a finance ministry decree on transparency with the force of law would avoid waiting for a parliamentary law.

"Our objective is to avoid parliament because it will take a long time... we can go to parliament later," Mr. Aoun said.

He said committee lawyers were instructed last week to study the regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, French Stock Exchange law and London Stock Exchange law.

"If they can give us a resume of all this we can immediately take the decision... in my opinion the new law on transparency will be ready in 40 or 60 days," he said.

Mr. Aoun expects 10 of the 40 pre-1983 listed companies to be quoted on the exchange. "Some of the former companies have closed, some have been taken over. Only 10 will be able to follow the rules of the Beirut Stock Exchange," he said.

The market's main initial activity would be trading the

High fuel prices put dampener on good oil freight rates

LONDON (R) — Shipowners have seen rates for transporting crude oil rise sharply since the first half of the year, but increased fuel prices mean it is too early to be toasting a market turnaround, analysts said Monday.

"It's too soon to get the champagne out," said Martin Stopford, of Clarkson Research Studies Limited.

"Earnings were down to exceptionally low levels earlier in the year so we would expect a bounce back," Mr. Stopford said.

Increased freight rates reflect above all a hike in bunker (fuel) prices, brought on by rising oil costs, brokers said.

"We've seen an increase in bunker prices from \$65 per tonne to \$100 as well as an increase in fixing (of ships)," said a broker at shipbrokers Galbraith's.

Demand for ships was helped by evidence of growth in oil demand in the United States, parts of Europe and Asia, coupled with concerns over the short-term availability of oil supplies due to unrest in Yemen and Nigeria, analysts said.

Rates for transporting oil on very large crude carriers (VLCCs) operating out of the Middle East Gulf shot up last week to worldwide 50 for a trip to Japan and an average W43 for trips westbound, based on the system of quoting freight rates used by brokers — from the low worldwide 30s in early June.

Brokers Clarkson said average daily earnings on older VLCCs rose 16 per cent last week to \$11,813, from \$10,192 the previous week and rates for newer vessels rose to \$17,019 from \$15,572.

In early June, Clarkson put average earnings for older VLCCs at \$4,580, and for newer vessels \$9,649. A VLCC has a deadweight tonnage of 200,000 to 300,000 and carries around two million barrels of oil.

But brokers said the high bunker price effectively cancelled out the gains in rates. "Returns are nothing like as high as the increase in worldwide would suggest," the broker at Galbraith's said.

"The apparent improvement in shipowners' net revenues is largely an illusion even at W43 (for Middle East Gulf westbound), firm bunker prices mean that voyage earnings are still far too low to meet the break-even costs of modern tonnage," SSY said in its monthly report.

"Rates are likely to increase further, perhaps another five worldwide points, then possibly steady off," one broker said.

Brokers said that as rates rose further, shipowners would be tempted to stave off scrapping older ships, which would mean more ships chasing the same amount of cargoes and act as an antidote to the rise in rates.

"If better trading conditions are envisaged, this may deter further scrapping activity. This would delay progress in the elimination of substandard vessels as well as forestalling the onset of more balanced supply/demand conditions in 1995/96," SSY said.

Guangdong, which has attracted more foreign investment than any other province, accounted for \$40.95 billion or 42 per cent of China's trade in the first half of 1994.

This was far ahead of Shanghai, second with \$8.18 billion, and Jiangsu, third with \$5.5 billion.

Foreign-invested ventures accounted for 36.7 per cent of China's trade at \$35.78 billion, up 45.3 per cent on the same 1993 period, and accounted for 27.8 per cent of total exports.

The Japanese economist He said the structure of exports was improving, with manufactured goods accounting for 83.1 per cent of exports, up from 80.5 per cent in the same period in 1993.

Export items showing the fastest growth were textiles and garments, shoes, toys, travel goods, aluminium, zinc, soybeans and peanuts, while exports of sugar, crude oil and oil products fell.

Fastest-growing imports were crude oil and oil products, telephone switching systems, machine tools, ships, edible oil and raw materials for the textile industry, including cotton.

The official said another positive factor was reform of the foreign trade system, aimed at allowing more Chinese firms to trade on their own.

China posts strong trade growth

BEIJING (R) — China's strong trade performance this year is a result of a stable currency, recovery in major export markets and a massive injection of foreign investment, economists said Friday.

But they said the trade picture was unbalanced with nearly half of all trade accounted for by one province — Guangdong — and foreign ventures producing nearly a third of the exports.

In the first six months of 1994, China's trade grew 25.4 per cent over the same period in 1993 to \$97.6 billion, with exports climbing 30.2 per cent to \$48.39 billion and imports rising 21.1 per cent to \$49.21 billion.

That cut the trade deficit from \$3.49 billion in the first half of 1993 to \$820 million in 1994, with June the first month in 16 that China posted a surplus.

One Chinese trade official said the strong export growth was due to signs of recovery in the United States, Japan and Europe and mitigation of the exchange rate since Jan. 1, with the yuan stable at 8.7 to the dollar since then.

Excluding foreign-invested ventures, more than 7,500 firms have the right to do trade, of which 2,234 are manufacturers, he said.

One Japanese economist said China's trade remains too dependent on the southern province of Guangdong, adjacent to Hong Kong, and on foreign ventures.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 2, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A group affair may not turn out as expected and could require that you be at your most clever in order to deal with these special circumstances that "need" your immediate attention. Relieve tension and anxiety.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can easily obtain the data you need at this time for a very important project. Group affairs are fine now since they can bring excellent results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day to confer with trusted advisers and gain excellent suggestions from them. Take no risks with your money.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Good friends will gladly introduce you to influential persons who can help you in career matters. Sidestep a troublemaker.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day for expansion in your line of endeavour and adding to prestige you now enjoy. Take needed health treatments.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Engage in social activities which are character building and can bring advancement in your career. Improve your budget to have more money when needed.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure to keep promises you have made to others. Use your ability for investigating wisely and coming up with the right answers.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Listen to what a good friend has to say so that you can gain a personal goal more readily. Strive for increased happiness with your family.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put more effort into your tasks and gain more benefits. Consult an expert for ideas to improve your financial position for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study whatever has been puzzling you in the past and come up with the right answers. Be logical about any new endeavour.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your monetary status and find the right way to gain more security. Come to a better understanding with a loved one.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Attend to outside tasks early in the day for best results. Avoid a temptation to spend more money than you can afford to be without.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put a new plan to work which could give you added income in the days ahead. Be more willing to do extra work which is assigned to you.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

GIRL MISSING

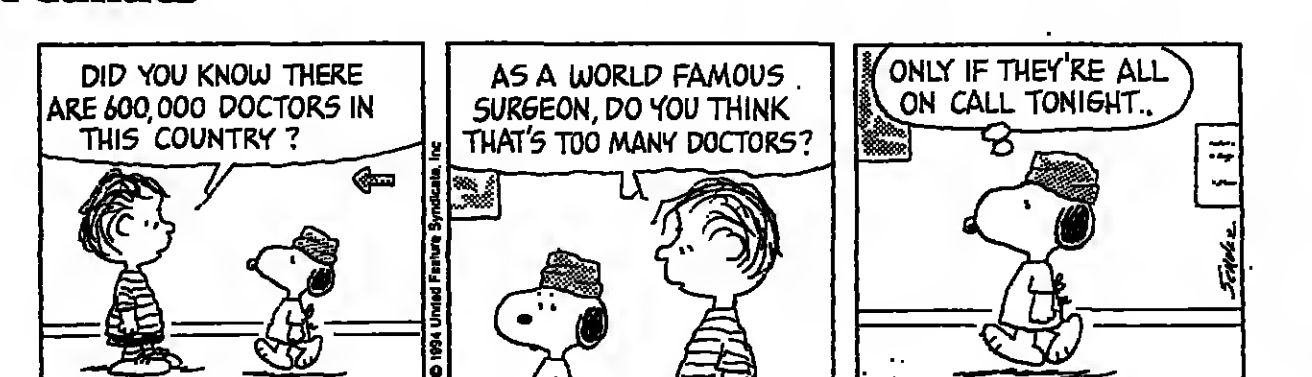


18-year-old Sri Lankan Mate Sandamali Perera left her mother house on Jabal Al Qal'a last Wednesday and did not return home yet.

Kindly if anybody had any information, please contact the Sri Lankan Embassy in Amman - phone 645311 - 645312 or 643720.

Anyone who hides her or employs her will be legally responsible.

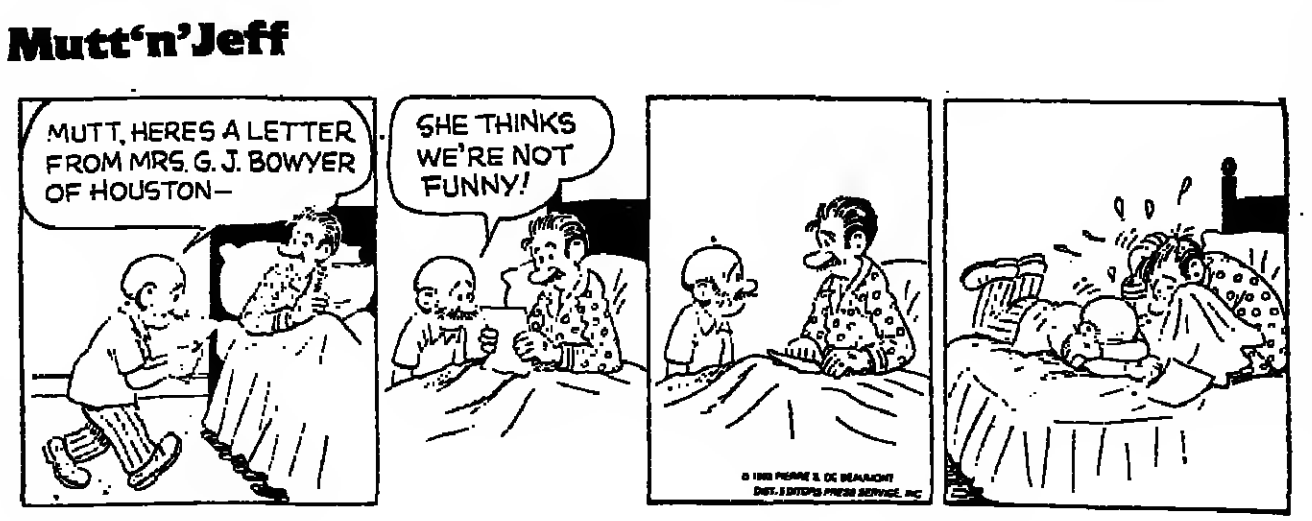
Peanuts



Andy Capp



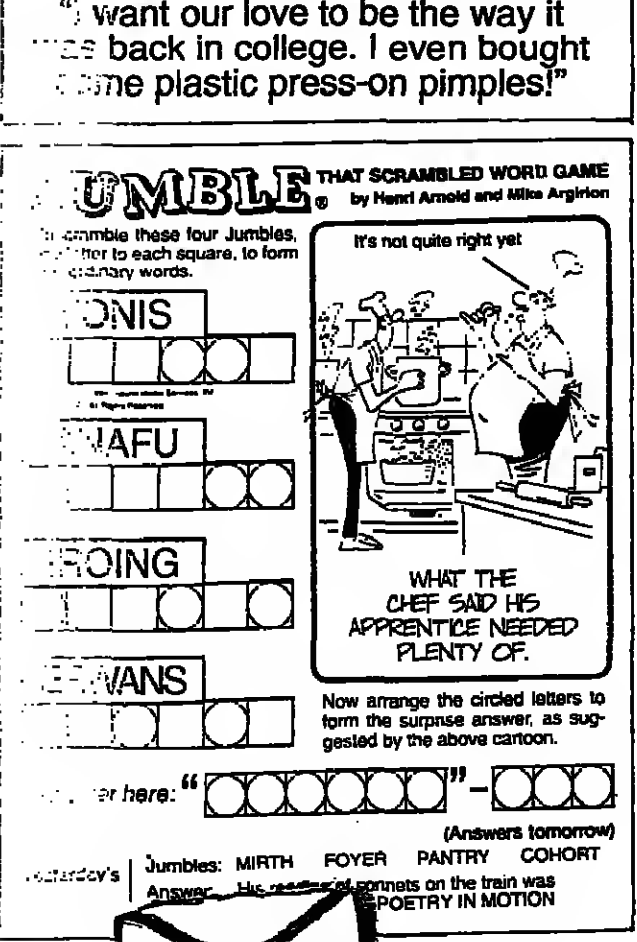
Mutt'n'Jeff



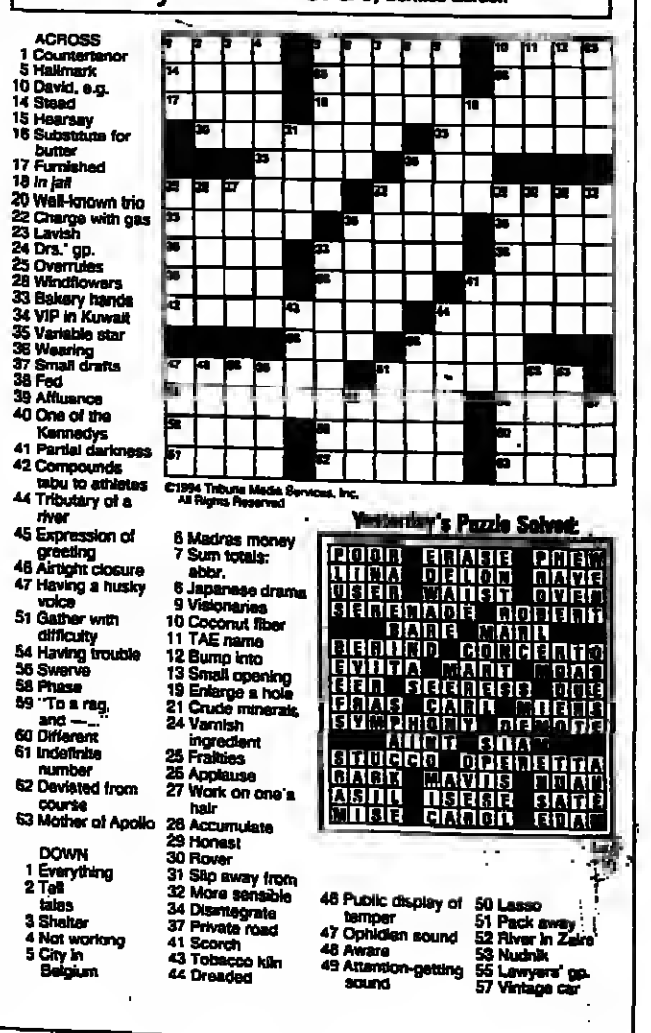
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 29/7/94	Tokyo Close Date: 31/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5430	1.5448
Deutsche Mark	1.5829	1.5723
Swiss Franc	1.5395	1.5322
French Franc	5.4895	5.3700*
Japanese Yen	99.95	98.77
European Currency Unit	1.2060	1.2161**

* 100 Francs = 1000 C.F.U.
** 100 C.F.U. = 1000 Francs

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.18	4.50	5.06	5.43
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.50	5.87	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.87
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.12	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.50	5.75
Japanese Yen	1.67	2.00	2.00	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.75	5.93	6.31

Interest rate for 100,000 C.F.U. (100,000 C.F.U. = 100,000 Francs)

Precious Metals

Metal	1SDM	100gm	Metal	1SDM	100gm
Gold	584.00	7.00	Silver	5.33	0.117

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 1/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6930	0.6950
Sterling Pound	1.0702	1.0756
Deutsche Mark	0.4399	0.4421
Swiss Franc	0.5192	0.5218
French Franc	0.1288	0.1294
Japanese Yen	0.7012	0.7047
Dutch Guilder	0.5919	0.5939
Swedish Krona	0.0458	0.0464
Italian Lira	0.0458	0.0464
Belgian Franc	0.0458	0.0464

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6200	1.6400
Lebanese Lira	0.040295	0.041815
Saudi Riyal	0.1843	0.1860
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3120	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1890	0.1915
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.7900
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1550	0.1910
Greek Drachma	0.0015	0.3066
Cypriot Pound	1.3755	1.4465

Arab Gulf bourses busy despite higher interest rates

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf stock markets have remained relatively active although interest rates on the U.S. dollar and national currencies have recovered to levels close to the returns from shares, dealers have said.

Except in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), share prices increased last week in the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and some of them reported record turnover with the floating of shares of new companies.

Brokers said the improvement in the interest rates had had a little impact on most GCC stock markets because of expectations of strong performance by trading institutions and their share prices were already low.

"In Saudi Arabia, share prices have lost nearly 50 per cent over the past two years due to lower government spending, weak oil prices and other factors. In Kuwait, prices have also declined by around 25 per cent

since liberation in 1991," said Zuhair Kaswani, a leading UAE stockbroker. "This means further large losses are unlikely because low prices mean higher return."

"The contrast with the UAE, where prices have sharply risen over the past two years and therefore the impact of the higher interest rates could be felt more. Most UAE share prices have already dropped," he pointed out.

The surge in UAE share prices to record levels this year have pushed down return to around five percent from more than seven per cent two years ago.

Interest rates jumped by nearly 75 per cent in the first half 1994 to 4.6 per cent at the end of June, from 2.6 per cent.

Despite speculation of record performance by most trading institutions, the interest recovery reversed a steady rise in the UAE's official stock index, which stood at 1,992.64 points last

week compared with 2,043.10 at the start of the year.

The 1,000-point index lost another four points this week.

"There is more demand for investment in deposits because of higher interest rates but the expected good performance of most trading institutions is still attracting investors to the bourse," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

In Saudi Arabia, share prices continued to rise for the second week running after losses throughout the

year, mainly due to low oil prices and a 19 per cent reduction in government spending, the main factor in economic growth.

The index increased to 136.75 points at the end of the week compared with 135.75 points in the previous week. But the level is far lower than 180 points recorded in January and the record 213 points in March 1993.

Although it does not have an official exchange, Saudi Arabia has the most advanced bank network for share dealing and turnover is

the highest in the Middle East, peaking at around \$4.65 billion in 1993.

Bankers said they expected a boom in the stock market as the kingdom, the world's top oil producer and exporter, has announced plans to privatise public institutions as part of reforms to cushion the impact of weak crude prices.

Kuwait's market, which is still recovering from the 1990 Iraqi invasion, also saw an increase of 3.2 points this week, pushing the index to above 100 points for the first

time in three months, according to dealers.

Bahrain's floor was also busy. Although prices of some companies slightly declined, those of commercial banks jumped by 8.78 per cent.

In Oman, turnover hit a record \$10.1 million last week and the index peaked at 134.00 points after a new fund, Oryx, began trading.

Dealing has remained quiet in Qatar, which has joined the UAE to announce plans to set up an official exchange.

Russia pyramid funds may fall like dominoes, government official says

MOSCOW (R) — Dozens of get-rich-quick investment funds across Russia may topple like dominoes if the state fails to police the market following the collapse of MMM, the country's biggest money-spinning scheme, a top official warned.

Maxim Boyko, chairman of Russia's Privatisation Agency, told Reuters in a weekend interview that look-alike schemes which have sprouted across Russia may start collapsing as depositors taper off amid fears the owners are cheating.

"All pyramid schemes are bound to run off the cliff at some point — the sooner the better," said Mr. Boyko, also a top adviser to reformist

Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais.

MMM suspended operations last week after a run on its shares fuelled by official warnings about its financial health. The company denies any wrongdoing.

Mr. Boyko said MMM's collapse would shake public confidence in the market, but was unlikely to slow down reforms. On the contrary, he said the scandal would prompt the government to press ahead with enforcing much-needed legislation.

"MMM was a complete disaster. The government has learnt its lesson. From now on, it'll intervene in similar schemes. People will be cautious and think twice before

investing their money," he said.

The scandal, the biggest yet in Russia's emerging share markets, sucked in savings worth billions of rubles. Thousands of investors massed outside MMM's Moscow offices daily after the firm stopped buying back its shares in most locations last week.

The scandal is bad news for President Boris Yeltsin's government — and good ammunition for parliament anti-reformers opposed to privatisation, a key plank in the reform platform which officials say has made 40 million Russian shareholders.

Doctors, lawyers, army officers and even journalists sank cash into MMM, a scheme that apparently depended on a constant flow of new investors for its payouts.

Reformers fear the collapse may bring share ownership into disrepute and taint capitalism before it has had a chance to establish itself in Russia.

The opposition will hope the disaster will discredit the government sufficiently to shake Mr. Yeltsin's grip. But parliament has just started its summer break and whether the scandal will create a political tremor remains to be seen.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Sunday the government would not compensate people who lost

money in MMM but admitted it was partly to blame for the crisis by not preparing legislation. Some finance ministry officials would be punished.

MMM offered a rouble return of nearly 100-fold in less than six months — a powerful hedge against inflation for ordinary Russians struggling to live on monthly wages of around \$100.

The company's share price collapsed to below 950 roubles (\$0.45) at the end of last week from 115,000 (\$55) — where it had climbed from less than 2,000 roubles (\$1) in February.

Mr. Boyko said the money-making scheme would probably be formally closed down pending a finance ministry audit.

He called for a ban on dozens of similar shadowy schemes which have attracted hordes of investors. Several smaller ones have already folded, leaving their owners in jail and leaving helpless investors in rage.

MMM's inner workings were as mysterious and elusive as its president Sergei Mavrodi, who became something of a local hero and one of the top 10 richest Russian businessmen.

In nightly television commercials, MMM promised annual dividends of 3,000 per cent. Like many other get-rich-quick schemes in Russia, MMM was selling redemption certificates issued against shares. These had little value and did not give owners any rights in the company.

"We demanded MMM's accounts and they said a husband of documents had been lost," Deputy Finance Minister Andrei Kazmin said. "How can we trust a company which has lost its documents?"

Bangladesh garment exporters ban child labour

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh garment exporters have banned child labour in a bid to avert a boycott by major Western buyers, a Dhaka daily has reported.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) decided that the ban would come into force from Nov. 1, the Morning Sun newspaper said.

BGMEA officials could not be reached for comment. But the report said the association would exclude any member found using cheap child labour.

Bangladesh Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has announced that child labour will be universally restricted by October. Factory owners are to provide schooling for children.

The moves comes after factory owners were warned by major importers, including the United States, which praised the BGMEA decision. Customers had threatened to stop imports unless child labour was ended.

The sector employs some 700,000 people, 80 per cent of them women and a "very small percentage" of child labourers, in over 1,400 factories, according to the BGMEA. Bangladesh law currently bans the use of workers aged under 12.

But social workers have warned that stopping under-aged children from working could force them into crime or prostitution.

Bangladesh garment exports jumped 25 per cent in 1993, earning \$1.8 billion to become the country's top export earner, BGMEA sources said.

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دليل المالك

GOODWILL GAMES

Organisers scramble to make ice in heat wave

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — First it was a swimming pool with brackish water. Now it's an ice rink with no ice.

While small glitches have troubled these Goodwill Games, organisers did not figure that making ice in one of the world's northernmost cities would be one of them.

"There have been problems in other big events. I've been too, but there's almost always been ice," said American pairs skater Stephanie Stiegler.

Organisers promised the Yubileiny Palace of Sports would have ice on Tuesday for the short-track speedskating events, although skaters were dubious about how good it would be. Figure skating, one of the glamour events of the games, begins Wednesday.

Boxing ended Saturday at the same venue. Workers poured water on the white concrete floor Monday, but on a scorching hot, humid day, the water was slowing the freezing and forced practice to an adjacent auxiliary rink.

"I can't imagine having a competition as big as this one and having preparations like this happen," said American skater Elaine Zayak, the 1992 world champion. "They (Russians) are used to everything and anything, and in

the United States we're used to things like this being done to perfection."

Practice in the auxiliary rink was an adventure. The ice was soft and brown-coloured, apparently picking up the shade of the floor beneath. American pairs skater Lance Travis, who teams with Stiegler, could not get over it.

"It looks like it has been mixed with oil," Travis said. "It's got a weird texture to it."

The ice (in the main rink) will be ready, the question is what will the quality be? Zayak asked. "I don't want to get hurt out there. The practice ice is very dangerous. It's like a three-hour public session has just been on it. I just hope the other ice is better."

Peter Opegaard, a former Olympic bronze medalist in pairs who coaches Travis and Stiegler, downplayed the safety problems.

"Americans tend to be used to nicer, more perfect ice," Opegaard said. "I don't think the practice conditions are bad enough you could call them dangerous. But everyone has their own opinion. If the ice is thin, they'll have to adjust the jumps."

Even Russian Artur Dmitriev, who has won Olympic gold and silver pairing with Natalia Mishkutienok, said

practice conditions were poor.

"Usually we have ice here in better condition," said Dmitriev, who lives in St. Petersburg and trains regularly on Yubileiny's main rink. "It's bad but OK for practice."

Organisers of the biggest sports event in post-Soviet Russia were red-faced early in the 16-day event when murky, green water from a failed filtration system forced a one-day delay in swimming. They pledged no delays in skating.

"Ice will be ready, don't worry," deputy mayor Vitaly Murko said. "This is a very serious matter for us — half of Russia's national team comes from St. Petersburg and we don't want to let the city down. It's so hot now, talking about ice there's a certain contradiction."

"This is not a pool where there's murky water or health issues," added Goodwill Games President Jack Kelly. "It's just a matter of being in the summer and ice takes longer to make."

Kelly said the Lenin Sports and Concert Complex was the only other large facility in St. Petersburg with ice making machinery. But that venue is being used for basketball, gymnastics and wrestling.

Jefferis wins gold for New Zealand

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (R) — New Zealander Vaughn Jefferis won the individual three-day event gold medal in a nail-biting finish at the World Equestrian Games Sunday.

Jefferis, riding Bounce, finished the showjumping with a total of 55.6 faults. Dorothy Trapp, partnering Molokai, took the silver medal for the United States on 56.8, with bronze going to Britain's Karen Dixon on Get Smart with 60.8.

Britain's all-women squad retained their lead from Saturday's cross-country to win team gold. France took the silver and Germany the bronze.

British-based Jefferis, in third place at the start of the day, was the only one of the leading trio to go clear in the show jumping.

Trapp, one of only three competitors to finish the cross-country inside the optimum time, moved up from fifth to a well-deserved silver medal on Molokai while Britain's Dixon edged forward from fourth to take bronze.

Overnight leader, Australia's Prue Cribb on Navarone, made three mistakes in the show jumping and slipped to a disappointing ninth place.



Dan O'Brien

O'Brien must master 1,500 to break world decathlon record

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — When world decathlon record holder Dan O'Brien finally decides running 1,500 metres is not the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest, the 9,000-point barrier seems certain to fall.

Twice this season, the American world champion has allowed record opportunities to slip by failing to push himself in the concluding race of the two-day event 10-discipline event.

"A lot of guys would die for the opportunity to set a world record. Here we have passed up two opportunities in a month," Mike Keller, O'Brien's coach, said after his athlete jogged home in five minutes 10.94 seconds at the Goodwill Games.

O'Brien, ahead of world record pace after Thursday's first day, eventually collected 8,715 points, 176 behind his 1992 world record.

Both at the U.S. cham-

ionships in June and again at the Goodwill Games O'Brien was on world record schedule before unimpressive efforts in the 1,500 metres.

As a result, O'Brien has not even topped Eduard Hamalainen's 8,735 world best this year.

"I do not see it," Keller said. "Two or three years ago he said he was ready to go the event down. I do not want to have to say we never got 9,000 points because he could not run the 1,500."

The time will come when needed, O'Brien said, perhaps at Talence, France, in September when he will face Hamalainen of Belarus in the year's top decathlon. And he pointed out that both in talent in the 1992 world record and at Stuttgart last year in the world championships he ran fast enough to win the event.

But his attitude to the 1,500 would surely appall his

sports psychologist. "It is an event I do just because it is in the decathlon," O'Brien said. "I have yet to develop the mental toughness that it takes to run the 1,500. I have yet to find a liking for it."

World record attempts become irrelevant, he said, when you are winning by 650 points on steamy afternoons. But as O'Brien talks and fails to improve, Hamalainen closes in on O'Brien's record.

"I would not be surprised if Eduard Hamalainen broke the world record at the European championships," O'Brien said. "He's in very good shape right now, and his second day events are coming along great."

O'Brien can hardly say the same about himself. He surged to the third-highest first-day score ever at the Goodwill Games, tallying 4,736 points. But after open-

ing the next afternoon with a 110 metres hurdles personal best, he stumbled. His best effort in the discus, 48.10 metres, and his final pole vault clearance, 4.90 metres, failed to meet even the standards he routinely achieves in practice.

"We are losing 25 feet (eight metres) from practice throws to competition throws," Rick Sloan, O'Brien's other coach, said. "The pole vault also was a disappointment."

"I've been jumping 5.10 or 5.20 on a daily basis in practice," said O'Brien, who has placed special emphasis on the event after failing to make a height at the 1992 U.S. Olympic trials and missing the Barcelona Games.

But practice vaults and throws produce no points. As Keller said of the 1,500: "He needs to do it (in competition). Not say it."

Formula One investigates pit lane inferno at German Grand Prix

HÖCKENHEIM, Germany (R) — The pit lane fireball which engulfed Jos Verstappen's Benetton at Sunday's German Grand Prix will be fully investigated by Formula One experts this week.

But there was no suggestion of an immediate ban on mid-race refuelling, reintroduced at the start of one of the grimmest seasons in world championship history. The FIA safety commission and a special expert advisory group formed by the sport's governing body will carefully examine all aspects of the latest safety crisis, making recommendations and ordering improvements where necessary.

Gerhard Berger, who achieved a stirring victory for Ferrari after four years in the doldrums, represents the drivers on the safety body and is in the pro-refuelling camp.

"It is something we have to look more carefully at — thankfully no-one was hurt and that is good. We have to wait and see," he said. "I am actually pro-

refuelling because it is an advantage for me because the engine is using more fuel. And it makes the race more interesting because you have different strategies and it looks good as you have cars coming in and out of the pits."

"If you can refuel a plane at 30,000 feet (9,000 metres) without any problem, you should be able to refuel a racing car. All these things are definitely difficult, so it is a challenge and I like it, but I don't want anyone to get hurt."

"We have to look carefully at what happened exactly and if there was a mistake or whatever, and then to think about it."

Verstappen and five Benetton mechanics were treated for minor or slight burns to the upper face after the incident, two of the six were detained overnight in hospital for observation.

The prompt reaction of specially-trained fire and medical crews averted a disaster as flames exploded outwards and upwards from the stricken Benetton.

A FIA spokesman said Monday that the emergency teams dealt with the blaze in a most professional manner. "Everything worked very, very well," he said. The fire was extinguished in four seconds.

He said that the manufacturers of the refuelling equipment were meeting Benetton Wednesday to discuss the cause of the accident.

Benetton technical director Ross Brawn said: "We will hold a thorough investigation and until we have done that, I cannot make any further comment."

Nothing is going right for Benetton at present. Their world championship-leading driver Michael Schumacher only competed at Hockenheim under appeal against a two-race ban for his British Grand Prix misdemeanours. He retired with car failure while in second place.

Two days earlier Brawn had denied claims that his team had used an illegal "launch control" automatic starting device at the San Marino Grand Prix.

Hungary hosts the next round of the championship Aug. 14. Pit lane infernos apart, teams hope there will not be a repeat of the multiple crashes which halved the 26-car grid with only one lap gone.

In spite of the collisions the track was cleared of broken cars and debris remarkably quickly, so there was no risk of the race being stopped.

"You would not re-start a 1,500 metres race if two or three runners fell, so why should it be any different in Formula One?" added the FIA spokesman.

Berger said there was a good chance that the problematic Italian Grand Prix Sept. 11 would be called and replaced by a race at the Nürburgring in Germany.

He said Monza was dangerous and drivers' recommendations for changes to the famous Lesmo curves, requiring better run-off areas and the felling of trees, had met opposition from conservationists.

Romario misses Barcelona presentation



Romario

BARCELONA (R) — Brazilian World Cup star Romario failed to turn up for the formal presentation of the 1994-95 Barcelona team Monday, earning sharp criticism from Dutch coach Johan Cruyff.

"This shows a lack of respect for his teammates," Cruyff told journalists at the presentation.

"We hope he will turn up and, when he does we will take the decisions which must be taken."

Spanish news reports said the striker had decided to prolong his holiday at home in Brazil, where he has been since his country's World Cup triumph in the United States last month.

Around 20,000 fans attended the presentation which included Romanian World Cup midfielder Gheorghe Hagi among the new signings for the champions, who have won four Spanish league titles in a row.

"He's a great player who will give us the quality we need. Also he has a good long-range shot, something which Laudrup lacked," Cruyff said.

Striker Michael Laudrup left Barcelona for arch-rivals Real Madrid in July after a season of disputes with

Cruyff, who often left the Dane out of his match squads in favour of his other three foreign players.

Hagi, who joined Barcelona from Italian club Brescia after two seasons at Real Madrid, will be vying with Romario, Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria and Dutchman Ronald Koeman for the three foreign places permitted in the team each match.

Barcelona's other new signings are goalkeeper Julien Lopetegui from Logrones, striker Xavier Escoffier and defender Abelardo Fernandez from Sporting Gijon, midfielder Francisco Sanchez Jara from Osasuna and midfielder Delfi Gusi from Albacete.

The Catalans released Spain's veteran World Cup goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, who has joined Valencia, while striker Julio Salinas has moved to league runners-up Deportivo Coruna and defender Juan Carlos to Valencia.

Barcelona were due to travel to the Netherlands Monday evening to start pre-season training. During their 10-day stay, they are expected to play several friendly matches against rivals that include former Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven and German side Bayer Leverkusen.

Classic Radiers vs. Broncos in Spain

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Different country, same result. Even when the Denver Broncos and Los Angeles Raiders play in a foreign country, the fans get their money's worth.

Jeff Jaeger, who beat the Raiders' AFC west rivals twice last season with game-winning kicks, did it again Sunday with a 39-yard field goal, in overtime to give Los Angeles a 25-22 victory in an American bowl preseason game.

The game, played before the smallest American bowl crowd since the series began in 1986, featured three 2-point conversion attempts as both coaches experimented freely with the NFL's new rule.

Despite the many substitutions and youthful errors typical of a preseason opener, it was classic Radiers vs. Broncos. The Raiders threw long to open the game, and the Broncos rallied, though without John Elway, to tie it in the fourth quarter. There was also plenty of pushing and shoving.

"It was a good experience for us," said Denver head coach Wade Phillips, whose team lost back-to-back games to the Radiers, including a 42-24 defeat in the playoffs, at the end of last season, "but we'll be ready for the Raiders when they come to our place, the third (regular season) game of the year. We're pointing toward that one."

The game opened in typical Radiers fashion. On the first play from scrimmage, Denver's revamped secondary was burned when Jeff Hostetler hit a wide open James Jett deep over the middle for a 75-yard touchdown pass.

It was Jett's second moment of glory at the Montjuic Olympic Stadium. He won a gold medal here in 1992 as a member of the U.S. Olympic 400-metre relay team.

"I got chills the other day when I was out here," said Jett, who led the league with 23.4 yards-per-catch as a rookie last season. "Barcelo-

na has been very good to me."

With the early lead, Los Angeles head Art Shell immediately made good on his promise to go for the 2-point conversion, as Hostetler hit running back Tyrone Montgomery in the right flat to make it 8-0.

Denver struck back thanks to another new rule. Jeff Jaeger's ensuing kickoff, from the 30-yard-line instead of 35 and off a one-inch (2.5-centimetre) tee, was a low drive taken by rookie Butler Byrd and returned to the Los Angeles 42. Six plays later, Jason Elam hit a 35-yard field goal to make it 8-3.

With most of the starters gone by the second quarter, Denver took the lead when backup quarterback Tommy Maddox engineered back-to-back touchdown drives of 64 and 27 yards against the second-string Raider defence.

Denver-rookie Derrick Clark, an undrafted free agent out of Evangel College of the Maia, scored on a 1-yard run on the first drive and second-year player Glyn Milburn caught a 9-yard touchdown pass on the second to make it 15-9.

Phillips went for two after both touchdowns, but Maddox one-hopped his pass attempt each time.

The Raiders tied it on their first drive of the second half when 39-year-old backup Vince Evans hit Daryl Hobbs on a 20-yard fade route to the left corner of the end zone. Then took the lead early in the fourth quarter when rookie Calvin Jones scored on a 3-yard sweep.

Jones, a third-round draft choice from Nebraska, had six carries for 25 yards on the 71-yard drive and could be the answer to the Raiders' running game woes.

"It's a learning process," said Jones, who finished with nine carries for 31 yards. "Everybody here has power and speed. They make adjustments. I have to make adjustments."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goodyear wins Marlboro 500

BROOKLYN, Michigan (R) — Canadian Scott Goodyear survived a race of attrition to win his second career IndyCar race in the Marlboro 500 Sunday at the Michigan International Speedway, site of his only other victory. Goodyear, who also won here in 1992, drove a Lola-Ford-Cosworth. He was followed by Dutchman Arie Luyendyk in a Lola-Ford-Cosworth in third. Defending champion and pole-sitter Nigel Mansell of Britain was 26th after reporting a throttle linkage problem on lap 43, which forced him from the race he had been leading. "You just can't drive a race like that at these speeds," Mansell said. "It's just so, so dangerous. The car was handling absolutely fantastic. We were in the lead, and we were really happy. I just went from being perfect to being flat out everywhere. I'm very disappointed, but at least we were going well until we had a problem."

Eddery delays return

LONDON (R) — Pat Eddery has decided not to return to racing at Brighton Tuesday and now plans to resume at Deauville, France, Thursday. The Irish jockey was taken to hospital Saturday suffering from stomach pains which are now thought to have been caused by dehydration due to losing weight. Eddery's agent, Terry Ellis said Monday: "Pat had been waiting for two of his rides at Goodwood and dehydration triggered the stomach problem. He will now rest until Thursday, when he is due to partner Yenda at Deauville."

Beckenbauer predicts Bayern lift

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Bayern Munich is set to become a force in Europe again after a four-year decline, club vice-president Franz Beckenbauer predicted here Monday. The former German captain, who came out of retirement last season to lead the side to the title, said: "We must now show that we can play at the highest level again. 'The decline of the last four years is over.' Bayern, with former Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni in charge, also boasts new signing Jean-Pierre Papin, bought after the French international was offloaded by AC Milan. Switzerland's Alain Sutter has also joined Bayern from Nuremberg."

Harding's house ransacked

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Things went from bad to worse for former World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion Jeff Harding. Harding lost his world title last week when he was outpointed over 12 rounds by Jamaican Mike McCallum in Bismarck, N.D. The Australian boxer returned home Monday to find his Sydney home had been ransacked and a number of items stolen during his absence. "He is devastated," said Harding's manager, Paul Hotz. "They ransacked the place. Every drawer was tipped out and they took all the important sentimental things from his place. His guitar and some jewellery and a whole lot of stuff." Harding, who has a 23-2 record, will announce his future career plans at a news conference later this week, Hotz said.

Win for Dream Team II

OAKLAND, California (AFP) — Shaquille O'Neal scored 18 points and pulled down eight rebounds here Sunday, giving Dream Team II a 113-75 exhibition victory over the U.S. Goodwill Games team. O'Neal, who made 8 of 13 shots from the field, came off the bench to spark the National Basketball Association (NBA) stars in a lopsided rout of U.S. collegiate competition. Mark Price scored 12 points on 4 of 6 shooting for Dream Team II, which will represent the United States at the world championships in Toronto in the next two weeks.

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Sports



Conchita Martinez

Martinez beats Sanchez Vicario to capture U.S. Hardcourts title

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — Conchita Martinez, serving efficiently and playing with patience, rallied to beat fellow Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in a three-set final of the \$400,000 U.S. Hardcourts Sunday.

Martinez, seeded second and ranked third in the world, lost only 12 points on her serve in the final two sets and beat top-seeded, second-ranked Sanchez Vicario 4-6 6-3 6-4 in a two-hour, 10-minute battle of 22-year-olds.

In five matches en route to a successful defence of her tournament title, Martinez dropped only the one set. She has lost only one of 23 matches in the past three months.

Last week, the two Spaniards teamed to lead Spain to victory in Federation Cup. Martinez earned \$80,000 for the triumph and Sanchez Vicario got \$36,000.

Both have won Grand Slam titles this year. Sanchez Vicario beat Mary Pierce in the French Open final and Martinez defeated Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon.

After smashing an overhead into the net at set point in the first set, Martinez slowly gained control of the duel as Sanchez Vicario, known for her tenacity and patience, started to make numerous unforced errors.

"Normally, I make more mistakes when I play her," said Martinez, who beat Sanchez Vicario for only the second time in seven meetings. "This time I had a lot more patience."

"Also, I served well. I wouldn't say I served hard but I used the angles so that I was able to open the court on my next shot. I tried to be patient and aggressive at the same time."

Martinez won 18 of 20 points at the net in the final two sets.

Martinez, annoyed that she missed the crucial overhead that would have brought her to deuce in the 10th game of the first set, battled Sanchez Vicario evenly in some ensuing long rallies with the top seed being forced to take most of the risks the rest of the way.

"I made more mistakes, more off the backhand," said Sanchez Vicario, usually a very consistent performer. "I took risks and sometimes they didn't work out."

Martinez was broken in the ninth game of the first set and Sanchez Vicario hung on to take the set after fighting off a break point in the 10th. The smash by Martinez that found the net was her 20th unforced error of the 55-minute set.

But Martinez regained her composure in the final two sets. She did not allow Sanchez Vicario to reach deuce on her 10 service games while earning one service break each in the second and third sets.

Sanchez Vicario was broken at love in the fourth game of the second set and at 15 in the first game of the third.

"I made the mistakes and gave her the chances to win and she took it," said Sanchez Vicario.

"When you win a Grand Slam, you have more confidence. She's playing that way."

Agassi beats Stoltenberg to win Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — Where the money is what eighth-seeded Andre Agassi wondered after winning the \$1.72 million Canadian Open Sunday with a 6-4, 6-4, victory over unseeded, up-and-coming Jason Stoltenberg of Australia.

During the awards ceremony, Agassi, who also won here in 1992, looked into the winner's envelope for his \$245,000 prize money and came up empty.

"I do have one complaint," joked Agassi to the crowd. "This is the second time I won this tournament and this is the second time they stiffed me."

Agassi expects the cheque in the mail.

Stoltenberg's runner-up earnings of \$129,000 is his best payday yet.

"I felt I did my best today. I feel great," said Stoltenberg. "I'm disappointed not to have won today but I'm going to take a lot of positive from this match."

The 24-year-old Aussie is having a great summer. He also reached the final of last

week's event in Washington, D.C., where he lost to Sweden's Stefan Edberg. Stoltenberg, whose current number 33 ranking is a career high, will reach the high 20s in the new rankings.

But against the 20th-ranked Agassi, in three meetings Stoltenberg has yet to capture a set.

Agassi, who is late 1988 soared as high as number three in the world, is also enjoying a surge.

The Las Vegas player known for his colourful personality as much as his game is heading back towards the top 10, landing at number 15 this coming week after winning his 21st career title, his second of 1993.

Agassi knew it would be dangerous to give Stoltenberg too many second serves to pounce on so he concentrated on making his first serve work.

The strategy paid off as Agassi posted an impressive 87 per cent rate of success on his first serves in the 80-minute match. On the first serves that went in, Agassi

won 73 per cent of the points.

"I thought Jason would be trying to come at me," Agassi said. "I knew he wanted to put the pressure on me and come to the net. I wanted to keep him at the baseline."

Agassi was completely successful in his goal.

"It was difficult to get to the net," Stoltenberg said. "He was trying to keep the ball high and deep, and me away from the net."

Agassi did offer Stoltenberg seven break point opportunities, but the Australian never capitalised on the chances.

After Agassi broke serve in the fifth game of the first set, Stoltenberg could have recouped the break in the next game. But all four break points he had in that sixth game went by the wayside.

The second set was a mirror image of the first set with Agassi securing the lead by breaking Stoltenberg's serve in the fifth game.

Stoltenberg had three chances to break Agassi's serve in the third game of the second set, but couldn't do it.

Graf faces first major test

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — World number-one Steffi Graf admits she cannot please all the people all of the time.

When her great rival Monica Seles disappeared from the scene after being stabbed on court, Graf's domination of the women's game was a great it was considered bad for the game.

Shock defeats at this year's French Open and at Wimbledon were enough to prompt rumours that she was on the verge of quitting.

And when she decided to play in an exhibition event instead of representing hosts Germany in the Federation Cup finals in Frankfurt two weeks ago, Graf suddenly discovered she had been cast as public enemy number-one in her home country.

But Graf, who faces her first serious test since her first round loss to Lori McNeil at Wimbledon when she defends her title at San Diego this week, just shrugs off the

controversies.

"Losing in Paris and at Wimbledon is still with me," she admits, "but retirement is certainly not on my mind at all. I still love playing and now that I'm mentally refreshed I am aiming at the U.S. Open. I'm eager to show everyone what I can do."

Graf said she was so upset she watched no Wimbledon tennis after losing in the first round to McNeil.

"I heard that Martina had reached the final and I was very happy for her," said Graf, adding, "But I had no real interest in what happened after I lost."

"I watched movies, sometimes twice a day...took long walks to be by myself...I ran...lifted weights...I did anything to keep my mind off what had happened."

Graf, 25 and coached by former Swiss champion Heinz Guntard, is clearly irritated by the short memories of press and officials.



Steffi Graf

"When I was winning all my matches at the start of the season, everyone said it was too easy. They wondered when I would lose my first set. Then they wondered when I would lose first match."

"Now, after losing just two matches, they are writing me off and talking only of me

retiring."

The German player, who has won 87 tour titles, fifteen of them Grand Slams, and who has been beaten only three times against 42 wins so far this year, is determined to prove that her recent losses were just temporary setbacks.

"No one puts more pressure on me than me," she says, adding, "And that is good for me. I am eager again and I want to show that I can do better."

Graf's main opponents at the \$400,000 event in San Diego will be Spaniards duo Arantxa Sanchez, the French Open champion whom Graf beat for the title twelve months ago, and Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez.

Between them the Spaniards have been sweeping all the honours.

They led Spain to victory in the Federation Cup final in Frankfurt and then clashed in the final of the U.S. Hardcourt championships at Stratton Mountain — Martinez beating her compatriot in three sets.

Other top players appearing in San Diego include powerful American teenager Lindsay Davenport and the 1993 Wimbledon finalist, Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic.



Andre Agassi

Novacek wins third Dutch Open

HILVERSUM, Netherlands (AP) — Karel Novacek outlasted Richard Fromberg over three long sets, edging past the Australian 7-5, 6-4 7-6 (9-7) late Sunday for the Dutch Open title.

"I was the one who played the smartest game against Richard. I was able to dominate him with my serve," Novacek said.

The pair had similar styles, both predominantly staying on the baseline and relying on big serves and big forehands.

The match began with both players' service dominating. The first deuce was not until the ninth game, and the first break point, which went to Novacek, did not come until the 11th.

Fromberg mis-hit forehand that ballooned wide to give his opponent the break, and Novacek quickly took advantage, serving out for the set in the next game and finishing it

with a pair of aces.

"Richard plays very well when he can dictate, but today I tried to be the one to make the decisions," said Novacek, who began to play increasingly aggressively.

In the third game of the second set the Australian appeared to wilt, as two Novacek passing shots and two unforced errors from Fromberg gave the Czech a break at love, a 2-1 lead and enough to win the set.

"I was surprised by Karel's service today. I didn't break him the whole match," said Fromberg. "I felt I'd had more second serves to hit, I could have come back."

Service domination set in again, with the next 19 games going with serve.

Fromberg twice had chances to win the third-set tiebreaker. An overhead forehand from Novacek gave him the first mini-break, but the double-faulted consecu-

tively to hand back the initiative to the Czech.

"Those two doubles were the difference in the tie break," said Fromberg. "I was still thinking about the first one when I hit the second."

Then at 7-6 and on set point to Fromberg, Novacek's passing shot hit the baseline. Novacek won the next point and Fromberg then handed the Czech his first victory in 1½ years by netting a forehand.

Novacek started the match between the two unseeded players as favourite despite his ranking of 76th compared to Fromberg's 52. The Czech ended 1993 with a ranking of 17.

"I was injured, and my motivation suffered," said Novacek. "But I'm back ready to play now."

Novacek previously won the Hilversum title in 1989.

Swimming champion Daryni quits international competition

BUDAPEST (R) — Four-time Olympic swimming champion Tamas Daryni, the most successful sportsman in Hungary's history, is quitting international competition.

"I will no longer enter world championships, either in the 200 or the 400 metres medley," said 27-year-old Daryni in a television interview, ruling himself out of future olympics as well.

He added: "I could have entered the world championships in Rome (in September) and maybe get a silver or a bronze. I am still good for a four minutes 16 seconds or 4:17. After much

thought, however, I decided that I would rather not enter and retire unbeaten."

Daryni has a superb record, including double individual medley golds at two Olympics and two world championships.

He has won all the major championship individual medley events he has entered since 1985, but was given a tough fight for the 400 medley gold at the European championships in Sheffield in last December by 19-year-old Finn Jani Sievinen.

Daryni set world records for both distances at the 1991 world championships.

Arbachakov knocks out Soto to retain WBC flyweight title

TOKYO (AFP) — Russian champion Yuri Arbachakov successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title here Monday when he knocked out Hugo Rafael Soto of Argentina in the eighth round.

Arbachakov, never beaten in his professional career, fired a salvo of his favourite straight rights to the face and then finished off with a left uppercut to the body to deny the WBC's top contender in his first attempt at a world title.

The knockout time was three minutes six seconds into the eighth round.

"I was cautious of his counter attacks, as I couldn't see his punches from low angles and I received some heavy

blows to my body. I hurt my ribs," Arbachakov said.

"I couldn't hit with my rights well in the beginning because he knows it is my favourite punch, so I tried to hit hard with my left and I hit the target. It was a great day," said the Russian, who jumped on the mat as he saw the Argentinian couldn't stand up.

The two boxers exchanged powerful punches from the outset but the champion responded with more accurate punches and a tight guard to win the first four rounds.

The South American champion fought back, producing effective left hooks, although he was cornered to the ropes several times.

However, the seventh and eighth rounds appeared to be a lopsided affair with Arbachakov repeatedly unleashing his favourite straight rights, combining with left uppercuts, before the final blow was administered with only several seconds left on the clock.

It was a fifth consecutive defence of the title since

Arbachakov wrested it from Muangchai Kittikaseem of Thailand in June 1992 to become Russia's first professional champion.

With the win, the 27-year-old Russian stretched his record to 19 wins with 15 of them inside the distance.

For the Argentinian, 26, it was his first attempt at world title. He now stands with 38 wins against two defeats, two draws and two no contests.

"I will train myself from the first step again and I hope I will be able to challenge him in the future," said Soto.

GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A982 ♣ A ♠ 2 ♠ Q1083

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 7 ♠ 97 ♠ QJ3 ♠ AK10973

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 7 ♠ 97 ♠ QJ3 ♠ AK10973

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A10972 ♠ 8 ♠ 5 ♠ QK ♠ A42

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 98 ♠ Q964 ♠ A9742 ♠ 38

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ KJ96 ♠ A9632 ♠ A2 ♠ 74

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

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Hrawi says no peace without Syria, Lebanon

FAYADIEH, Lebanon (AP) — President Elias Hrawi, handing out graduation swords to 264 Lebanese army officers, said Monday Middle East peace was impossible without Syria and Lebanon.

"There will be no peace in the Middle East without Syria and Lebanon irrespective of all the separate signatures they collect," he said in a speech marking Lebanon's 49th army day.

He was alluding to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) May accord with Israel implementing limited Palestinian self-rule and the joint Jordanian-Israeli declaration last week in Washington ending 46 years of belligerency.

Washington has pledged to continue efforts to bring about similar breakthroughs on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was in the Middle East two weeks ago, is preparing to set out on a new shuttle between Syria and Israel later this month.

"We shall maintain full coordination with sister Syria," Mr. Hrawi said. "The Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace talks with Israel are inseparable."

Syria has 40,000 troops stationed as post civil war peacekeepers in most of the country and sets Lebanon's political agenda. It seeks an end to Israel's occupation of the strategic Golan Heights, seized in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel has offered a phased and partial withdrawal.

Mr. Hrawi criticised threats made against Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah guerrillas in recent days.

Foreign press reports have accused the pro-Iranian group operating in Lebanon of involvement in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which killed at least 95 people.

Mr. Christopher said last week some or perhaps all the

recent bombings against Jewish and Israeli targets in Latin America and Europe can be traced to Hizbollah. He said groups like Hizbollah must be defeated.

His comments, coupled with Israeli accusations of Hizbollah involvement in the attacks, sparked fears in Lebanon of massive Israeli retaliation with alleged American consent.

"We should not be punished because we are not an obstacle to just and comprehensive peace," said Mr. Hrawi.

Mr. Hrawi called on Israel to withdraw, or announce a withdrawal timetable, from an occupied enclave in South Lebanon, and pledged that his fledgling army would preserve peace along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Otherwise, "the resistance against occupation will continue as long as the occupation lasts," he said.

Mr. Hrawi was flanked by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri at the graduation ceremony at the military academy in Fayadieh, a pine-wooded hill suburb east of Beirut.

With the Beirut skyline and a giant national flag in the background, the cadets knelt on their right knees as they collectively took the oath of defending Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitution.

Cadets in royal blue uniforms approached the stand one by one to receive from Mr. Hrawi a sword signalling promotion to a lieutenant rank in the army.

The ceremony was followed by a military parade staged by army units in camouflage fatigues. General Emile Lahoud, a British-trained officer credited with reuniting the army after its disintegration in the 1975-90 civil war, saluted from the review stand as troops filed past to the rhythm of drum beats and martial music played by a military band.

Iran holds suspect in shrine bombing

NICOSIA (Agencies) — In a gun battle in a Tehran suburb Monday, Iranian security forces shot and captured a man suspected in the June bombing of a shrine in north-eastern Iran that killed 26 people, state-run Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Cyprus, identified the man as Mahdi Nahrvi. It claimed he was a member of the Iraq-based opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq.

Iran's intelligence minister, Ali Fallahian, told the radio the alleged bomber had been rushed to a hospital and would be operated on. The broadcast was monitored in Nicosia.

Mr. Fallahian said the man was in critical condition, but added he hoped for a quick recovery so that more information could be obtained about his activities.

The intelligence chief said the man had been identified by a special security squad in the eastern suburb of Tehran and was entering a public telephone office early Monday to make a long-distance call.

Mr. Fallahian said a telephone number found on the alleged bomber belonged to the Mujahadeen office in Germany. "In great likelihood that is where he was trying to call," Mr. Fallahian said on the radio.

He said security agents had identified the man from photographs circulated after the June 20 blast killed 26 people at a shrine in the northeastern city of Mashhad. The minister said a manhunt had been ordered following the blast.

Mr. Fallahian said the alleged bomber had pulled out a gun after he was ordered by security officers to halt. He did not disclose how many times, or where, the man was shot.

Iran blamed the bombing on the Mujahadeen, which denied the charge. Last month Iran said it had captured three women in the act of planting several bombs, one at the grave of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Mujahadeen denied on Monday it had any link with Nahrvi.

In a statement issued in Paris it accused the Tehran government of setting off the bomb in Mashhad to justify further suppression of the opposition.

Doctors at a Tehran hospital operated on Nahrvi after his capture to remove bullets from several parts of his body.

"I hope his operation will be successful so that we can obtain more information from him," Mr. Fallahian said.

A large manhunt involving agents of his ministry, the armed forces, police, and paramilitary Basij forces at borders and in the interior had been launched to track Nahrvi down, he said.

Information volunteered by people helped the security forces to find Nahrvi whose picture — a thin, mustachioed man in his 20s — was printed in newspapers a week after the Mashhad explosion, Mr. Fallahian said.

The minister said Nahrvi was first identified by Bahram Abbaszadeh, who was arrested on June 24 when trying to plant a bomb at a Sunni Muslim mosque during mass prayers in southeastern city of Zahedan.

Tehran says the Mashhad blast and the aborted bombings, as well as the killing of two Christian preachers, were part of a plan to foment sectarian violence and destabilise Iran.

"We cannot continue operating under such conditions," Mr. Mahachi told a news conference. "After the expiry of the U.N. mandate in October we will be more than willing to invite our boys home."

Zimbabwe has a battalion of 800 men with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Somalia and Mr. Mahachi said he wanted them to operate as a unit rather than be split into companies as is the case at

Regent calls on Audit Bureau to build 'bridges of confidence'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visited the Audit Bureau on Monday and urged its staff to expand its control network over various government departments and their spending.

Special attention should be given to the collection of public funds and the protection of state-owned land, the Regent said at a meeting attended by the bureau's chief, Eid Kharabseh, and his senior staff.

The Audit Bureau acts like a watchdog over government departments' financial expenditure and submits annual reports to the prime minister about violations.

In the course of conducting its duty in relation with other departments the Audit Bureau should build bridges of confidence with the ministries with the aim of protecting public interests, the Regent said.

The Crown Prince suggested that the bureau set up a central department to make purchases for the various government institutions.

Stressing the need for up-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday visits the Audit Bureau (Petra photo).

grading the bureau and offering its staff material and moral incentives to perform more efficiently, the Prince said that Jordan must be prepared through wise planning to enter the coming decade with better and stronger national economy.

Dr. Kharabseh outlined

the general activities of the bureau, noting that it is operating with 492 employees who prepare their annual reports about the performance of the government offices. Any excesses in public spending and violations of rules are immediately reported, he said.

Draft on civilian power transfer is ready, PLO says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has approved a draft document on transferring health and education powers to the Palestinians, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegate said here Monday at the opening of a fresh round of talks to extend autonomy.

"There is no problem from the Palestinian side and we will see now the position of the Israeli leadership towards the draft document," Palestinian delegate Hassan Asfour told AFP.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators last week hammered out the draft declaration on the two issues, saying that needed only to be approved by their respective leaderships.

The Israeli team would not comment to the press upon its arrival at the Nile-side luxury hotel where the talks are being held.

The fourth round of talks to extend autonomy was supposed to have begun on Tuesday, but there was no immediate explanation why it was moved up to Monday.

The health and education issues are two of five areas that will be discussed in extending self-rule throughout

the West Bank. The others are taxes, social affairs and tourism.

The two sides are also to discuss issues left over from the May 4 accord which launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, including Palestinian prisoners, border crossing points and the size of the autonomous Jericho enclave.

The teams are headed by Nabil Kassas for the Palestinians and General Danny Rotshild for the Israelis.

Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said Monday that talks with Israel on expanding some aspects of autonomy to the West Bank are nearing completion.

Dr. Shaath spoke after a one-hour meeting with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal in Tel Aviv, in which he pressed for a release of thousands of Palestinians still jailed by Israel.

Mr. Shahal told reporters Israel would free up to 10 women, "some of whom have nearly completed their terms" and none of whom have "blood on their hands".

Israel's key condition for any release. He also promised improved conditions and visitation rights.

But the gestures fall far

short of Palestinians' demands. Israel released about 4,500 Palestinians in recent months, but some 5,000 are still in jail, 500 of which are accused of murders.

The Palestinians have been demanding priority for the release of up to 49 women, some of which are reportedly ill.

Israel's tough line on the prisoners has hindered support among Palestinians for the peace process that in May yielded autonomy for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, said Mr. Shaath, who is planning minister in Mr. Arafat's self-rule government.

"This has become a focal point among Palestinian people," he said. A release "would make better supporters of peace out of all of us."

Dr. Shaath said the Israeli-PLO talks in Cairo were about to produce agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank in five civilian areas — education, culture, health, tourism and taxation.

"I would say that by the end of his week, maximum by the beginning of next week, we will have finished (and) the peace process will reach

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat upholds Al Nahar closure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Monday made permanent an order closing a pro-Jordanian newspaper, leaving the Palestinian community with a single Arabic daily.

"This paper has to respect our laws," Mr. Arafat told a news conference in Gaza City. "They have to get a licence first of all from the Palestinian National Authority."

Opponents saw the move as an infringement on freedom of the press as well as a deepening of the rift between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan.

Mr. Arafat was angered over a summit last week in Washington between King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which stressed the monarch's continued control over the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat demanded Monday that Israel begin talks on Jerusalem's future immediately.

The closure of Al Nahar leaves Jerusalem with just one daily, the pro-PLO Al Quds.

Two other newspapers, Al Fajr and Al Shah, closed over the past two years for financial reasons.

The fight over Al Nahar began last Thursday when Palestinian officials blocked the paper from entering Gaza and Jericho. Arafat aides later said it lacked a license and failed to carry reports from Wafa, the official PLO news agency.

Al Nahar had been operating under an Israeli license and had a circulation of about 5,000 in Jerusalem, Gaza and Jericho.

Othman Halak, the paper's publisher, said last week that if he could not circulate the paper, he could not afford to continue printing it.

On Monday he could not immediately be reached for comment.

Opponents of the closure order complained that the Palestinian National Authority, created under the May 4

Israel-PLO accord, had issued no regulations about the press and that the leadership was interfering in press freedoms.

"Arafat cannot ask for a license without having laws," said Daoud Kuttub, a respected Palestinian journalist. "He cannot demand a license from only one paper."

A petition signed by 37 journalists also protested the closure.

Hanan Ashrawi, former spokeswoman for the PLO peace negotiating team and now a human rights activist, called for all publications to be treated equally.

"If Al Nahar needs only a license, then it is a technical issue and not a violation of freedom of speech," Ms. Ashrawi told the Associated Press. "It can be solved easily, with a uniform standard for everybody."

After Al Nahar was blocked last week, the owner of the Akhbar Al Balad weekly political magazine suspended publication in protest. It remains closed.

3 held in Panama plane blast

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Panamanian authorities have detained two Iranian nationals and a Lebanese citizen in the July 19 bombing of a Panamanian plane that killed 21 people, 12 of them Jewish, official sources said Sunday.

The three were detained as they tried to leave Panama at the Paso Canoas Costa Rican border crossing.

Authorities said they entered Panama in June using false passports, allegedly to make purchases at the Colon free trade zone on the Caribbean coast, where most of the Jewish businessmen killed had companies.

A bomb was planted in the Alas airline commuter plane, which crashed during a flight between Colon and Panama City, killing everyone on board, according to preliminary police reports.

Officials in President Guillermo Endara's government last week suggested Israeli experts might come to assist local authorities in the investigation, but there has been no further word on whether Israel will send help as it did to Buenos Aires after the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity building. At least 100 people were killed in that attack.

Authorities here have not released the identities of the three people under arrest in the Alas bombing.

Nor have they commented on the case of Lebanese national Lya Jamal, 26, whose body was found among those killed, but has not been sought by next of kin.

Police were looking for clues in Jamal's case, and in those of the three detainees, including a possible link to alleged drug trafficking, a police source said, speaking privately.

One of the passengers killed in the crash was Sami Schwartz, a Jewish businessman who was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Argentine investigators have little firm evidence to identify the bombers in the July 18 blast, a top official said in an interview Sunday.

"As far as the police are concerned, the investigation is very advanced, but it's a different matter proving it judicially," Interior Minister Carlos Ruekauf told the Clarin magazine.

COLUMN

Army chemist turns on China's addicts

BEIJING (R) — A military chemist specialising in antidotes to chemical weapons has turned his guns on a new target — China's growing army of drug addicts. Professor Pan Kifu of the People's Liberation Army's Anti-Chemical Warfare Institute claims to have concocted an herbal antidote to narcotics addiction, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. Injections of the drug dubbed "HT", Dr. Pan says, "can help drug addicts to kick the habit quickly and without any side-effect". Xinhua reported, Dr. Pan is so confident he is seeking global patents. The antidote from medicinal herbs that grow in the mountains of southwest China's Yunnan and Guangxi provinces. His institute is in Guangxi. "Tests on 5,000 subjects shows that the medicine is 100 per cent effective," Xinhua quoted Dr. Pan as saying. "A drug addict gave up the habit without pain in just two to seven days after receiving the injection."

China's herbalists often tout new cures to all manner of illnesses and other medical conditions, including addiction to narcotics. Only on Sunday a doctor in eastern Zhejiang told Xinhua he also had developed a highly effective, low-cost "new method to extricate drug addicts from severe addiction". Xinhua gave no details of his cure. Earlier this year a company in north China's opium-plagued Shaanxi province said it was marketing an addiction-hunting cigar rolled from traditional medicinal herbs.

Doubling vicar delivers last sermon

STAPLEFIELD, England (R) — A vicar who was sacked by the Church of England because he did not believe in the literal existence of God delivered his last sermon. Reverend Anthony Freeman addressed his congregation in the small West Sussex town of Staplefield for the last time ahead of an order revoking his licence to preach from midnight. Rev. Freeman told the larger than normal congregation and dozens of reporters and photographers in the 19th century church that he felt a little like persecuted Biblical Prophet Jeremiah: "At least no-one has put out a warrant for my arrest."

Local bishop Dr Eric Kemp ordered the ban after giving Rev. Freeman a year to reconsider remarks published in an 80-page book God With Us in which he appeared to question the existence of God and the Anglican dogma of the trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Rev. Freeman wrote: "There is nothing out there or if there is we have no knowledge of it."

On Sunday he insisted that did not make him an atheist. "I am not an atheist — that is nonsense. I have proclaimed I believe in God," he told parishioners, some of them weeping. He said he had no regrets about writing the book and said his views were an attempt to find "space" within the church for different opinions about ways in which God existed.

His sacking has disappointed many in his congregation but pleased others who felt he was a little too modern in his thinking for the predominantly rural parish. "I like him as a man and he has been very kind but... it is like being an astronaut who doesn't believe in the moon," said parishioner Lesley Pritchard-Gordon.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait cabinet approves Islamic law change

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti cabinet, seeking to strengthen the role of Islam in everyday life, has approved a draft law to amend civil legislation in accordance with Islamic law, newspapers said on Monday. The cabinet said on Sunday it had approved a draft by a committee of academics and officials that has spent more than two years studying how to make all laws conform with Islamic Sharia law. The draft law, which concerns the 1,100 articles of civil law including regulations on banking practice, will have to be passed by parliament, where the well-organised Islamists are the single largest group, before it becomes law. "The cabinet has approved the draft law," newspapers quoted a cabinet statement as saying. An article dealing with futures trading was among several additions to the civil law advocated by the committee. Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil was reported as saying. He gave no details. Among other major proposals was one making Islamic Sharia the basic source judges would need to refer to if they could not find a legal text to guide them.

Lebanon threatens retaliation in Egypt row

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon has threatened to raise customs duties on Egyptian imports if Egypt does not lower its duties on apples, the only Lebanese product it imports, an official said Sunday. "Not only is the balance of trade between the two countries 90 per cent in favour of Egypt, but Egypt has recently raised by six per cent the customs duties of 55 per cent imposed on apples," the Lebanese official said. "If Cairo does not substantially lower its customs duties and does not stop fixing the price of apples, which has become far too expensive for Egyptian households, Lebanon will find itself forced to impose the same rate on Egyptian products imported by Beirut." Egyptian products imported by Lebanon include water melons, garlic, onions and beans. Informal sources say Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez discussed the lowering of customs taxes with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during his visits to Egypt.

Emigres seek refugee status in Canada

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union are applying for refugee status in Canada, and 150 requests have been approved despite Israeli objections, a daily said Sunday. "Israel will wage a campaign in Canada to expose the claims' absurdity," Haaretz quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin as saying. "To grant Israelis refugee status is ridiculous." Israel argues its democratic system prevents oppression of citizens and allows freedom of emigration, eliminating the basis for any claim to being a refugee. Foreign ministry spokesman Rafi Ganzu confirmed the report in principle but did give the number of applications.

Man killed near Cologne was Turk

COLOGNE (AFP) — A young man found beaten to death at the weekend by a pond in the Cologne region was a Turk, aged 20, and the motive for the killing could have been racist, police said Monday. The man, whose name was not given, was found by a fisherman at dawn Sunday in a pool of blood, partially burned and covered by an inflammable liquid. His head had been hashed in, probably by the baseball bat found next to the body. A police spokesman said death had occurred not long before the discovery, as the victim's clothes were still on fire. The dead man came from Bremen in the north-west and investigators were trying to clarify the reasons for his visit to Cologne. A racist motive was "plausible," but "other reasons are not being excluded," he added.

Zimbabwe eager to get its troops out of Somalia

HARARE (Agencies) — Defence Minister Moven Mahachi said Monday that Zimbabwe was keen to withdraw its troops from Somalia after one of its soldiers was killed in an attack by militia-men on Saturday.

"We cannot continue operating under such conditions," Mr. Mahachi told a news conference. "After the expiry of the U.N. mandate in October we will be more than willing to invite our boys home."

Zimbabwe has a battalion of 800 men with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Somalia and Mr. Mahachi said he wanted them to operate as a unit rather than be split into companies as is the case at

present. "While we are prepared to continue participating in Somalia we are of the opinion that our battalion should operate as an intact unit rather than splitting the force when adequate support cannot be provided."

Some 140 Zimbabwean soldiers were in a camp at Belet Huen in Somalia on Saturday when around 3,000 of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) militiamen approached the camp and demanded the release of 465 Somalis who had taken refuge there, Mr. Mahachi said.

"The refugees refused to leave the camp and, adhering

to the humanitarian mandate of UNOSOM (the U.N. operation in Somalia), the Zimbabwean soldiers could not leave the refugees to the mercy of the gunmen.

"The company commander on the ground, realising that he was greatly outnumbered and the consequences should he put up a fight, did not offer any resistance," Mr. Mahachi said.

"During the commotion that ensued, a Zimbabwean national army member was shot and killed after he had resisted surrendering his weapon."

He was the second Zimbabwean soldier to die in action in Somalia since troops were sent there in 1992.

Mr. Mahachi told the news conference that it was up to the United Nations to decide whether a Zimbabwean battalion was still needed in Rwanda.

"We agreed together with other African countries to send peacekeepers to Rwanda at the height of the military conflict in that country."

"Now that the Rwanda Patriotic Front has formed a government, it is up to the U.N. to decide on the way ahead," he said.

U.N. officials in Mogadishu confirmed the Belet Huen incident and said five Zimbabweans were missing. U.N. military spokesman Major Rick McDonald told reporters.

"It appears that the aim of the attack was to loot UNOSOM equipment and involved a large number of armed Somalis. One soldier was killed and others went missing."

Maj. McDonald said a few captured peacekeepers were released on Sunday after negotiations and were evacuated to Mogadishu.

"A search will go on for those still missing," Mr. McDonald said.

Maj. McDonald said UNOSOM would launch an inquiry into the incident — which followed recent fighting between Aided forces and those of rival north Mogadishu warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

20 cows roasted alive during thunderstorms

PERIGUEUX, France (AFP) — Twenty cows were roasted alive after lightning struck the barn they were sheltering in, firemen in this southwestern town said. The cows were victims of violent storms which swept across the Dordogne region Sunday. Firemen answered around 70 emergency calls in the space of just over three hours, 40 of them in the town of Sarlat, near the Dordogne River, where numerous buildings were flooded. The thunderstorms sparked two fires in farm buildings near Jumillac-Grand, northern Dordogne. It was in one of these blazes that the cows perished.